KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

VOLUME

5

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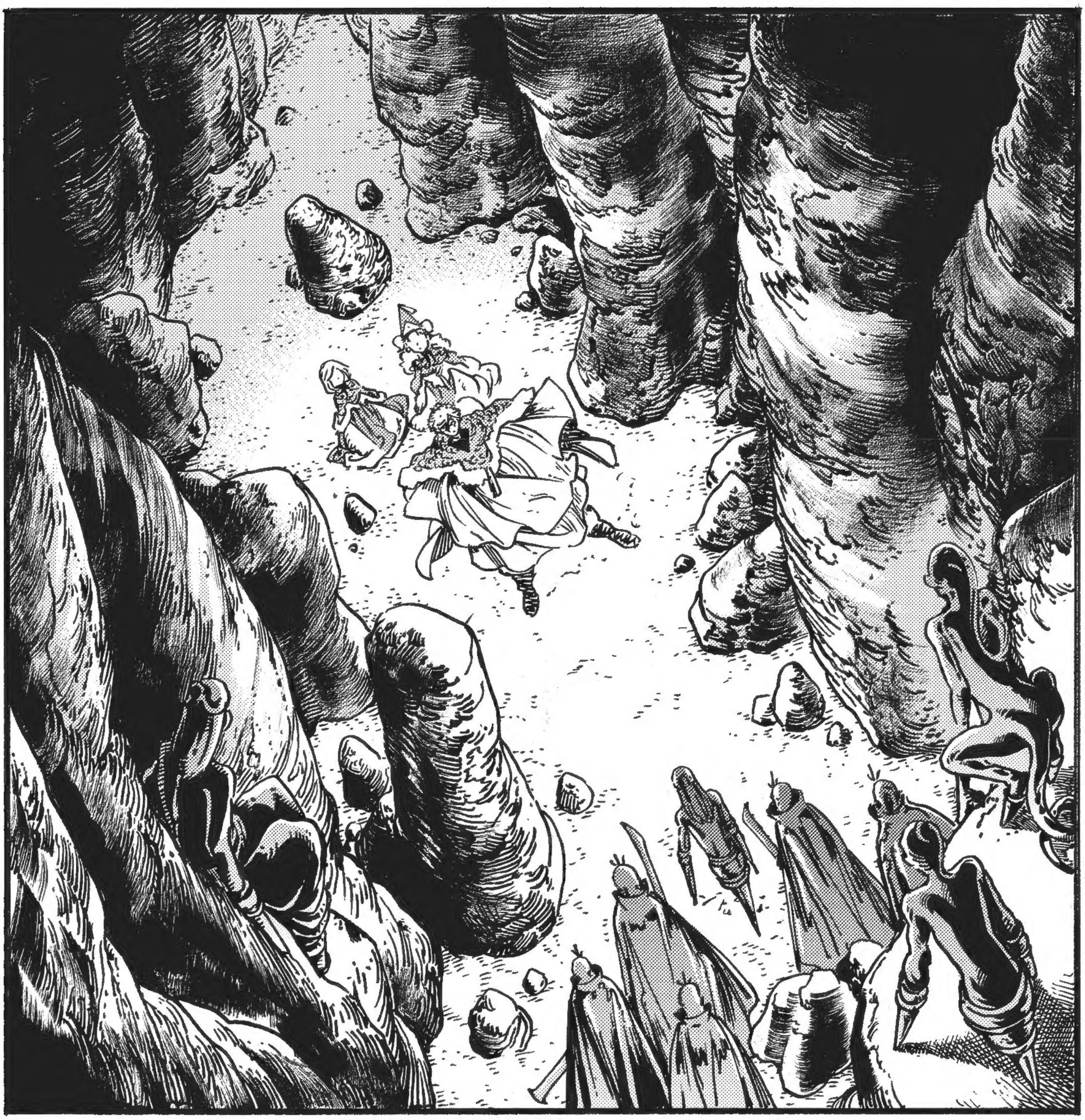
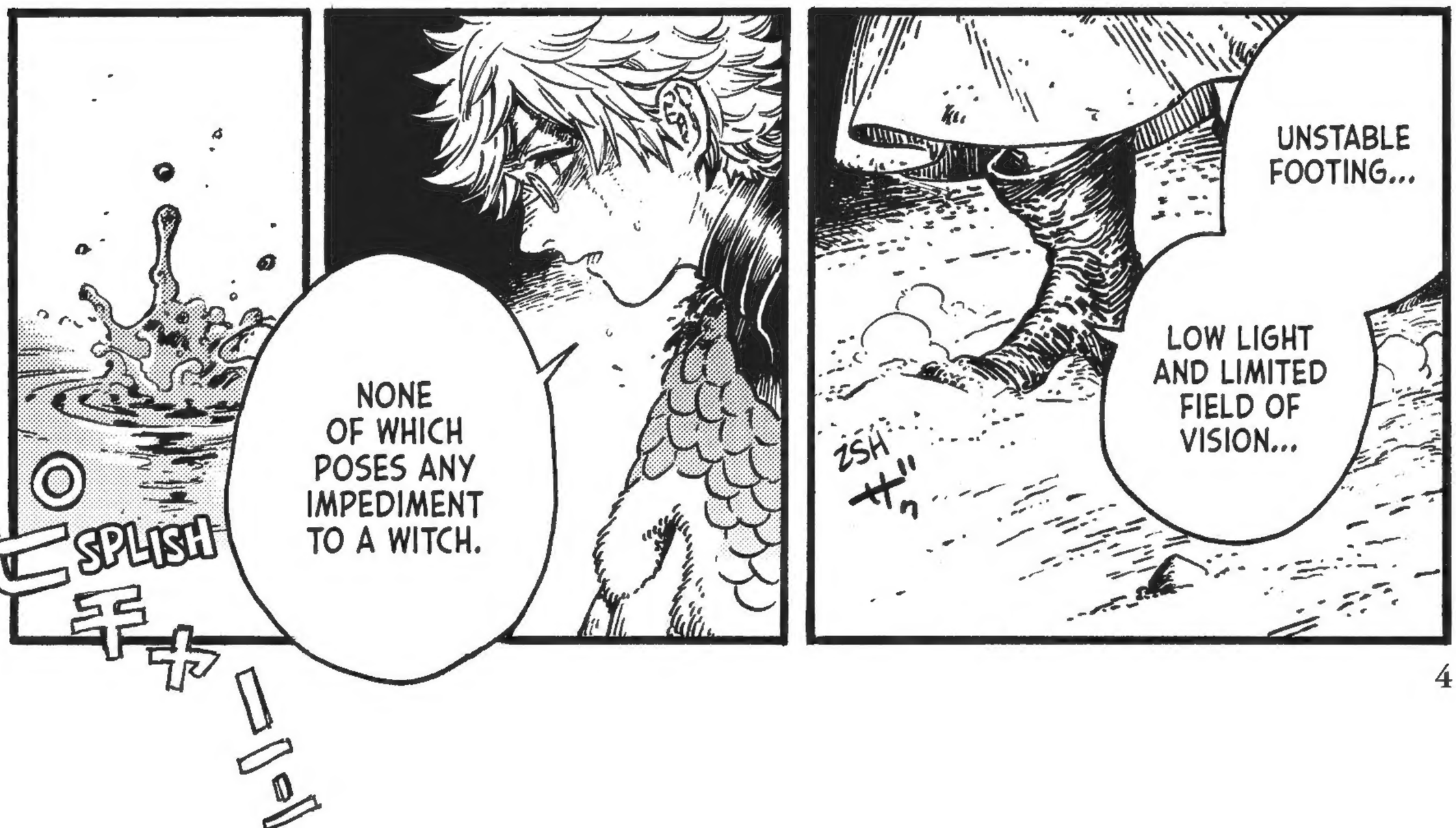
WITCH HAT ATELIER

♦

KAMOME
SHIRAHAMA

Chapter 24




UNSTABLE FOOTING...
LOW LIGHT AND LIMITED FIELD OF VISION...
ZSH
NONE OF WHICH POSES ANY IMPEDIMENT TO A WITCH.
SPLISH

SKRCH

SH

IL

WIRR

IL

TUP
TUP

SINCE THE DAY OF THE PACT, IT HAS BEEN DECREED THAT NO WITCH SHALL ABET WAR OR QUARREL.

DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHY?

...YOU CAN HARDLY CALL IT A FIGHT.

IT'S BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A WITCH...

SHRK

SHRK

SHHHRK

FLUTTER

WHAM

FRSPLSH!!

KRSPLAAASH

SPLRSH

BUT HIS DRAWING HAND MUST BE BADLY HURT.

...LIKE IT WAS NOTHING AT ALL!

INCREDIBLE! MASTER QIFREY DREW THAT HUGE SEAL...

HE CAN'T KEEP FIGHTING ON HIS OWN LIKE THAT.

HE'S USING HIS WHOLE ARM TO CAST, LIKE HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GRIP HIS PEN WITH THAT HAND.

PANT

PANT

COCO, WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO HELP!

TREMBLE カタ カタ TREMBLE カタ TREMBLE ...

S-SORRY, TETIA...

I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP SHAKING...

COCO?

...AND IT MAKES ME...

...KINDA...

S-SEEING THEM REMINDS ME OF MY MOM...

THE ROMONONS ...

...ARE AN AWFUL LOT LIKE ONES THAT TRANSFORM PEOPLE INTO STONE.

OF COURSE.

FORBIDDEN SPELLS THAT TURN FLESH INTO GOLD...

I WAS SO FRIGHTENED, I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN.

AS WITCHES, WE HAVE A CALLING.

PEOPLE... THAT'S IT!

!

FWRSH

THANKS, COCO!

AND IT'S THE ONE THING I WANT TO HONOR ABOVE ALL ELSE!

SLRRRK

FWISH

VWOOSH

KRSHHK

SPLISH

FWRSH

WHAK

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WOULD CONSIDER ABANDONING YOUR GRUDGE AGAINST WITCHES?

I'D RATHER NOT CAUSE YOU HARM.

THROB

THERE SURE ARE A *LOT* OF YOU.

SLINK

THRK

THRK

THRK

THRK

LOOM

THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL.

IF I DON'T WRAP THIS UP SOON...

SHNK

TO MERELY *IGNORE* A HATRED FESTERING SINCE DAYS OF YORE? UNTHINKABLE.

AS BODIES OF GOLD HEED NOT TIME'S TOLL...

...SO IS ANGER AUREATE EVER-LASTING.

GNFFF

THOU WOULDST ASK US TO CAST ASIDE OUR GRIEVANCES?

SLAM

!

PWUFF

PA-PWUFF

LET US THEREFORE SEE...

...TO THY *THOROUGH* UNDER-STANDING, O WITCH.

ONLY THOSE WHO SUFFER CAN OUR ANGUISH KNOW.

PWUFF
PA-PWUFF
PWUFF
PWUFF
PA-PWUFF
PA-PWUFF
PA-PWUFF
PWUFF
SORRY TO DO THIS WITHOUT PERMISSION, MASTER...
FLOWERS WROUGHT OF SAND?
WHAT ARE THESE?
THIS SPELL. IT'S ONE OF—
WE MIGHT BE APPRENTICES, BUT WE CAN STILL CAST!
...BUT I COULDN'T JUST STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!

WHY DID YOU REMOVE YOUR MIRROR CLOAK?!

YOU'D HAVE LOOKED LIKE A PAIR OF BRUSHBUDDIES! YOU'D HAVE BEEN SAFE!

THE TWO OF YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY...

ONE MORE ODIOUS WITCH ...

THEY MULTI-PLY.

AN-OTHER.

TETIA! NO!

BUT I HAD TO TAKE IT OFF SO I COULD *TALK* TO THEM.

AH. THOU WOULDST SPEAK WITH US?

HOW RECKLESS THOU ART.

AND TELL ME, LITTLE WITCHLING, DOST THOU BELIEVE...

...THERE ARE WORDS TO BE HAD?

BECAUSE ROMONONS ARE *PEOPLE*, JUST LIKE US.

...I DO. AND I THINK YOU'LL LISTEN.

WE LEARN ABOUT THEIR CRUEL, HEART-BREAKING LEGACY...

...AND ABOUT HOW WE MUST ALL BE CAUTIOUS TO PREVENT SUCH AN AGE FROM EVER DARKENING OUR WORLD AGAIN.

THE VERY FIRST LESSON WE APPRENTICES RECEIVE...

...IS ABOUT THE SPELLS ONCE CAST BY THE WITCHES OF OLD.

THE KINDS OF SPELLS *I* LIKE...

...ARE ONES THAT PRODUCE FEELINGS OF THANKS.

MAGIC MEANT TO BRING SMILES TO OTHERS' FACES.

MAGIC THAT LENDS STRENGTH TO THE PEOPLE I ENCOUNTER...

...WHO ARE TROUBLED OR HURTING AND NEED MY HELP.

THAT'S THE PATH OF STUDY WE APPRENTICES WALK, AND THE TYPE OF WITCHES WE HOPE TO BECOME.

SO, PLEASE...

...I BEG OF YOU...

...LET OUR MASTER GO, AND GRANT US SAFE PASSAGE.

FW

AH

MAGIC BROUGHT NO DELIVERANCE TO *US.*

TETIA...

AND HOW WILT THOU PROVE THY WORDS?

WHAP

...WHEN ALL THE ILL WERE DOOMED TO BE SCULPTURE.

AILING WAS THIS MAN...

GROWN OLD HAD SHE...

...WHEN ANY WHO WALKED WITH CANE WAS TO BE RELIEF CARVED UPON WALL.

...AND THE WEAK...

SO TOO FOR THE UGLY...

DESTITUTE WERE THESE SOULS...

...AND BORN OF FOREIGN LANDS THOSE.

...AND, IN THE END, ANY WHO DISSENTED AGAINST THIS CRUEL INJUSTICE.

...

THOU SAYEST, LITTLE WITCH-LING...

...THAT THE WORLD HATH CHANGED. IF IT BE SO, SHOW US.

ANSWER US ONE QUERY, THAT WE MAY KNOW THY MIND.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

FOR MILLENNIA HAVE WE WAITED IN THE DEPTHS OF THIS FORGOTTEN LAND...

...NURSING OUR ANCIENT RAGE.

...YET WHICH HERE IS POSSESSED BY NONE...

...AND CAN NE'ER TO US BE GRANTED.

THAT WHICH FILLETH THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

...SOUGHT BY ALL CREATURES FAR AND WIDE...

I KNOW THE ANSWER! IT'S—

SHK

SILENCE. IT IS THE CHILD TO WHOM THE QUERY IS POSED.

Y—

YOU'RE ASKING ME A *RIDDLE?*

NAY.

SOMETHING ONLY FOR HUMANS?

AYE.

IS IT SOMETHING WE HAVE, TOO?

IT IS THAT WHICH MAGIC HATH *TAKEN* FROM US.

CAN IT BE GRANTED TO OTHERS WITH MAGIC?

BOTH YE HERE AND THE CAPTIVE ONE.

THEN THE WITCHES SHALL MEET THEIR DESERVED FATE.

DRAG

WHAT HAPPENS IF I ANSWER WRONG?

MISS ALAIRA!

WHUD

DASH

IS SHE HURT?!

WE HAVE TO—

THOU SHALT DRAW NO CLOSER...

...UNTIL THINE ANSWER IS GIVEN.

FWRSH

I HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT.

THERE'S NO TRACE OF AGOTT AND THE OTHERS.

MISS ALAIRA'S OUT COLD.

COCO! ARE YOU OKAY?!

R-RIGHT.

LET'S THINK TOGETHER!

COCO, WE HAVE TO FIND THE ANSWER.

IT'S NOT THAT WE CAN'T FIND AN ANSWER.

IT'S THAT THERE ARE TOO *MANY* OF THEM.

THERE'S NO LIGHT FROM THE SUN DOWN HERE, NO DELICIOUS MEALS, NO WARM BEDS...

HRR-

I'VE SQUEEZED MY BRAIN DRY, AND STILL NOTHING.

RRM

MAGIC IS DEFINED BY TECHNIQUE AS WELL AS IDEAS. BUT THERE'S ONE MORE CRUCIAL QUALITY.

PURPOSE.

...IF I HAD TO CHOOSE JUST *ONE*...

I GUESS...

GET TO THE HEART OF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

WHAT DO ALL THOSE THINGS REPRESENT?

!

WHAT PEOPLE ASK WITCHES TO PROVIDE...

WHAT DO WE YEARN FOR AND AIM TO PROVIDE? WHAT DO OTHERS HOPE TO SECURE WHEN THEY TURN TO WITCHES FOR AID?

IF YOU CAN PIN THAT DOWN, I KNOW YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY TO THE ANSWER.

COCO...?

I'M... GONNA TRY ANSWERING.

SOME-THING YOU SEEK BUT CANNOT BE GRANTED.

A THING WHICH NOBODY DOWN HERE POSSESSES.

SOMETHING PRECIOUS THAT WAS TAKEN FROM YOU BY MAGIC.

IS THE ANSWER... *COMFORT?*

YOU'RE FOREVER COMPANIONS TO SUFFERING...

...NEVER KNOWING SOLACE OR SLEEP.

A BODY MADE OF GOLD WILL NEVER AGE OR DECAY.

I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW A SPELL TO PUT YOU TO SLEEP.

MAGIC LIKE THAT IS FORBIDDEN. BUT...

JUST LIKE WHAT'S BECOME OF MY MOM.

...I DO HAVE THIS CONTRAP-TION FROM MASTER OLLY.

IT'S CALLED A SNUG-STONE.

IT'S MOSTLY JUST FOR PEACE OF MIND, SO IT MIGHT NOT REALLY HELP...

...BUT INSIDE, IT CARRIES THE HOPE THAT PEACEFUL SLEEP WILL COME TO WHOMEVER USES IT.

IT'S A GENTLE, *HAPPY* SPELL. SO... MAYBE...

WARMTH IT HATH.

WE REQUIRE MORE.

THIS ALONE WILL NOT SUFFICE.

BUT...

...IN SIZE IT LACKETH.

I'D DRAW IT BIGGER FOR YOU, BUT THE SIGNS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED FOR THE LARGER SEAL, AND—

HUH?!

UM! I'M SORRY!

FWAP

FLAP

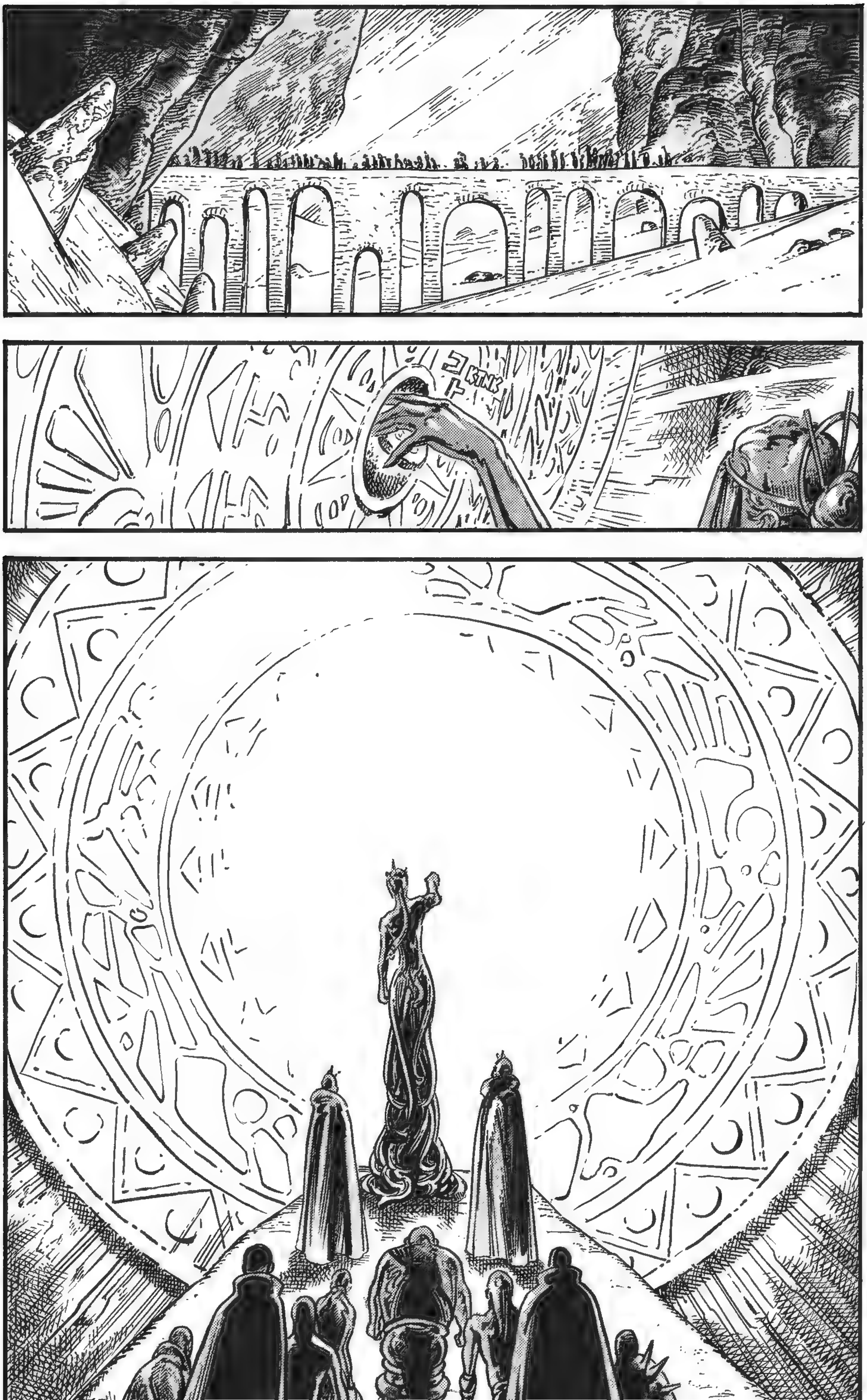
FWAP

LURCH

SLRK

SLRK

?



WARMTH.

IT BRINGETH WARMTH.

AN ARCANE LENS...

...OF AMPLIFI-CATION.

WHAT IS *THAT* THING?

IT MAGNIFIES THE EFFECTS OF A SEAL.

IT IS A VERY OLD MAGIC, FROM TIMES OF WAR.

AT LONG LAST.

AT LONG LAST, WE REST.

...AND PAIN.

...WITH CHILL...

LONG HAVE WE BEEN WEARY...

SHLLLP

...I DOUBT IT WILL REMAIN SO MILD.

BUT RECKLESSLY THROWN INTO THE ROMONONS' AMPLIFICATION LENS...

WARM TO THE TOUCH, BUT NOT HOT ENOUGH TO BURN.

ON ITS OWN, OLRUGGIO'S SEAL IS PRECISELY BALANCED.

THEY'RE *MELTING!*

PLEASE WAIT!

WAIT! ROMONONS!

COCO! DON'T!

N-NO! WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!

RII DASH

I'M STILL SO FAR FROM THE TOWER OF TOMES...

...AND I HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT INVERTING SEALS AND EVERYTHING ELSE, BUT...

PLEASE!

DON'T GO...!

...SOMEDAY, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP THEM!

THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS!

—TITUDE.

BUT...!

ANY CLOSER, AND YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET HURT.

YOU MUSTN'T, COCO.

SIZZLE

MASTER QIFREY ?!

COCO!

STAGGER

THOU HAST OUR GRATITUDE.

WE THANK THEE, O WITCH.

WHY...? WHY ARE THEY *THANKING* ME?

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE THINGS *BETTER!* WHY ARE THEY *GRATEFUL?!*

I HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO HEAR...

...ANOTHER THANK YOU THAT SOUNDS SO *SAD.*

BUT I'M SURE OF ONE THING.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT EITHER, COCO.

ME, TOO.

...I KNOW.

YOU'RE BACK WITH US. GOOD.

ARE YOU INJURED?

NMM... QIFREY ...?

ALAIRA...

ALAIRA! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

GLANCE

GLANCE

きょろ

きょろ

WE HAVEN'T SEEN THEM.

THE OTHERS. ARE THEY NOT HERE?

YOU'RE LOOKING A LOT WORSE FOR THE WEAR THAN ME.

EASY, THERE.

FWUMP

!! LURCH

WHAT HAPPENED?

THE APPRENTICES. ARE THEY—

FOR A MOMENT, HE HAD ME.

WE WERE RUSHED BY ONE OF THE BRIMMED CAPS.

WE NEED TO FIND THEM QUICKLY AND FLEE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL I GOT AWAY WITHOUT ANYTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.

I RESISTED, THROWING EVERYTHING I HAD AT HIM...

...AND HE SENT ME PLUMMETING DOWN HERE.

A TATTOO. A SEAL DRAWN ON THE BODY.

FOR ONCE INK FINDS ITS WAY INTO FLESH...

...THE CHANGE IS PERMANENT. THERE'S NO COMING BACK.

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 25

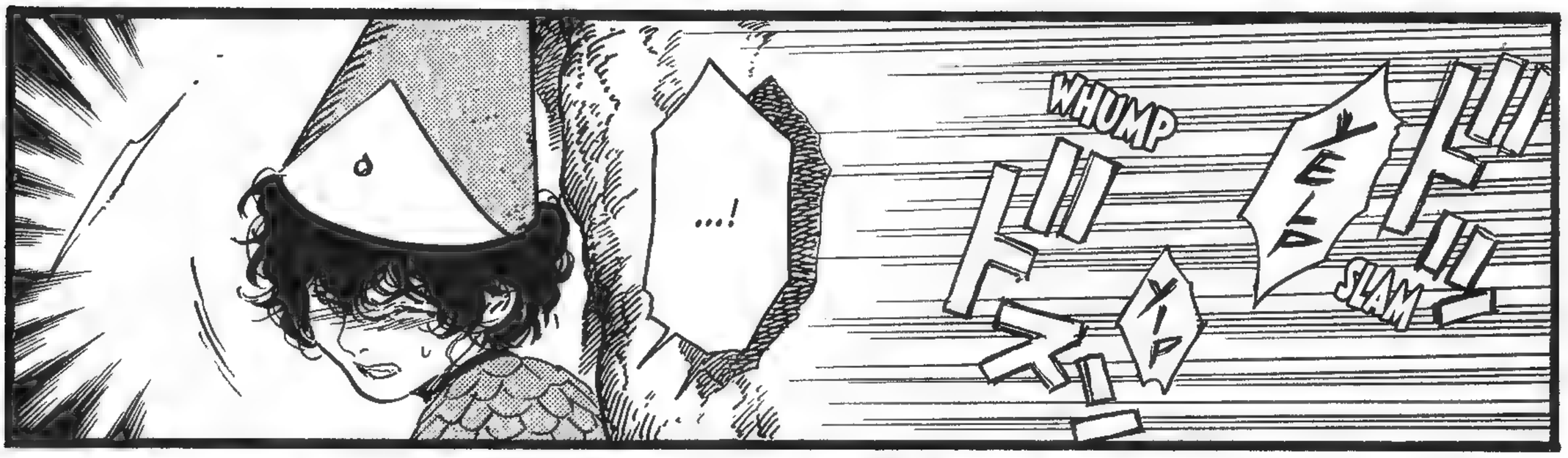
AROOOOOOO
EUINI...

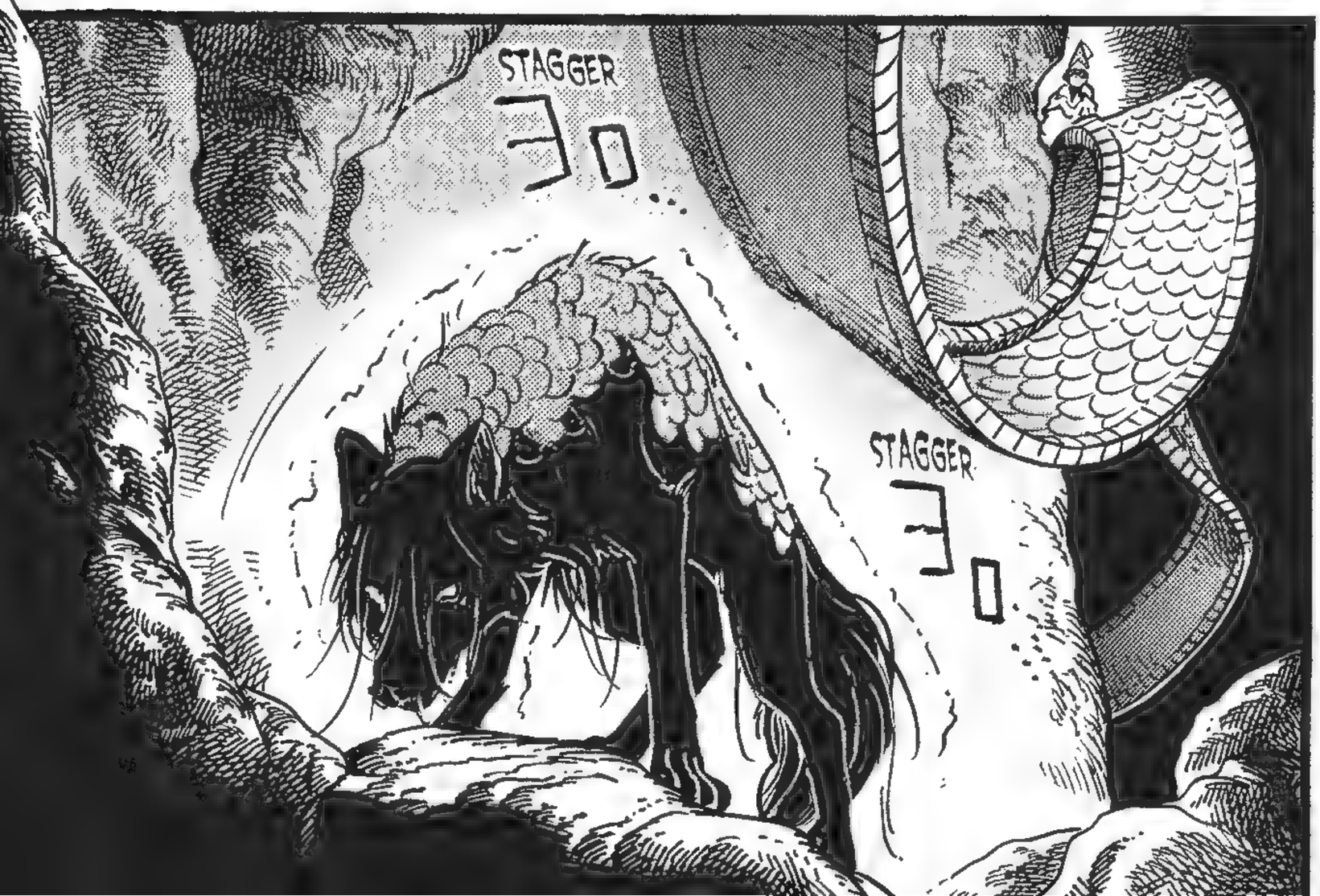
SLAM

PACE
PACE

PACE
PACE

HUH?!
SPRING


...!
WHUMP
YELP
SLAM


STAGGER
STAGGER

STAGGER

GOOD THING I STOPPED TO PICK UP ONE OF HIS SCALES.

WITH THE GUIDANCE ORB'S HELP, I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT LOSING HIM.

...HE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE HOW BADLY HE INJURES HIMSELF IN THE PROCESS.

HE'S SO DESPERATE TO GET OFF THE ROAD AND INTO DARKNESS...

IF EUINI HADN'T COME TO MY RESCUE...

...THAT WOULD BE **ME** SLINKING INTO THE DARKNESS.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO HELP HIM.

BUT NOW THAT THE TATTOO'S THERE, WE'LL NEVER GET IT OFF.

SO HOW DO I BRING HIM BACK?

HOW CAN I MAKE HIM WHOLE AGAIN?

SHP

HMM ...

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

DANGLE

!!

SNAG

SNAG

NO, NO. YOU'RE HEADED THE WRONG WAY.

COME ALONG, NOW.

FASCINATING. SUCH A PITY THAT THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS WERE LOST TO TIME.

HAD I THE LEISURE, I'D OBSERVE MORE THOROUGHLY.

SKRCH

SKRCH

SKRCH

!

OUR PLANS APPEAR TO BE PROCEEDING EVEN MORE RAPIDLY THAN WE'D HOPED.

KT FWIISH

MY RESEARCH WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

WE MUST SEE YOU TO THE GIRL.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE THEY PLANNING?

...

WHY GO TO SUCH LENGTHS OVER SUCH AN UNREMARKABLE AND AVERAGE GIRL?

THEY SEEM ADAMANT ABOUT PURSUING COCO, BUT WHY?

...

ONE WHO'S NOW NO DIFFERENT FROM *US*...

I CAN FIGURE THAT OUT LATER.

FIRST I NEED TO GET EUINI BACK.

DID YOU...

...HEAR HER?!

...TO HELP EUINI!

SHE SAID I...

...DON'T HAVE WHAT IT *TAKES*...

AND IT ONLY BOTHERS ME...

...BECAUSE I KNOW SHE'S RIGHT.

"LOA" - PAUSE

I HAD TO BE. I WAS SCARED.

BUT I WAS OKAY WITH THAT.

I KNOW THERE ARE THINGS I CAN'T DO.

I DIDN'T WANT TO GET SWEPT AWAY BY THINGS THAT ARE FORCED ON ME.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE SIGHT OF WHO I AM.

SHE ABSOLUTELY *INSISTS* ON STUDYING ALONGSIDE HER BROTHER.

I HATE TO IMPOSE, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO *DREADFULLY* OBSTINATE.

FOUR YEARS EAR-LIER

REST ASSURED, WE PRODUCE ONLY THE FINEST, MOST UPSTANDING WITCHES.

WE'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE STRAIGHTENING THIS ONE OUT.

?

CLUTCH

HIS SISTER IS MORE THAN WELCOME.

RILIPHIN HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE A MOST *EXEMPLARY* YOUNG APPRENTICE.

RILI ...?

ENOUGH OF THIS, RICHEH-LETTE!

WHAP

THAT WAS THE ASSIGNMENT. MY WAY WORKS, TOO.

KEEP THE BOTTLE FROM BREAKING.

WHY DO YOU PERSIST WITH THIS *NONSENSE?!*

BUT *YOUR* SPELLS AREN'T PRETTY OR FUN.

EVERY LESSON, YOU TELL US TO DRAW EXACTLY WHAT YOU DRAW.

SHRF!!

FLINCH

SLAM!!

WE STUDY ...

...FOR YOUR PERSONAL AMUSE-MENT!

NOT...

WH

...OF ITS INHABIT-ANTS!

AM

...TO BETTER OUR WORLD ...

...AND THE LIVES...

HA A A!

CLATTER

YOU WILL NOT RETURN TO YOUR DESK UNTIL YOU'VE COMPLETED THE LESSON.

YOU MAY PRACTICE ON THE *FLOOR.*

DO NOT PICK THEM UP.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.

LEARN TO *RESPECT* ADULTS AND TO ACCEPT THE THINGS YOU'RE TAUGHT.

PLAP

...

RILI...?

...

LEARN FROM YOUR BROTHER'S EXAMPLE. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO *PLIANT.*

HAVEN'T YOU, RILIPHIN?

FLINCH

STROKE

FL-
FLINCH

!

I ASKED YOU A *QUES-TION!*

YES, MASTER.

THE REST OF YOU, PREPARE FOR LUNCH.

RILIPHIN, YOU COME WITH *ME.*

Y-YES, MAS-TER!

IT'S OKAY, RILI!

I CAN DRAW *SMALL* AND *QUICKLY.* UP IN THE CORNERS, IN SECRET, SO THE TEACHER DOESN'T NOTICE.

MY SPELLS HAVEN'T CHANGED. THEY'RE STILL ME.

THANK YOU, RICHEH. YOUR BRILLIANCE IS WHAT KEEPS ME GOING.

AS LONG AS I KEEP THAT UP, I'LL NEVER FADE AWAY.

THE SPELLS I WANT TO DRAW ARE SECRET AND SWIFT...

...AND SO SMALL AND FINE, THEY MIGHT NEVER BE NOTICED.

REMEMBER OUR DISCUSSION, RICHEHLETTE.

BUT WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR THE TEST...

...

YES, MASTER.

IS THAT UNDER-STOOD ?

SIMPLY DRAW AS I TAUGHT YOU...

...EXACTLY AS THE OTHER PUPILS DO.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. THAT'S NOT THE **RIGHT** ANSWER. THE ONE DECIDED BY ADULTS.

OR MAYBE A LADDER MADE FROM MY RIBBONS OF STONE?

I WONDER IF I COULD MAKE IT UP ON A SPARKLY BRIDGE?

GLANCE

MY WAY ISN'T ENOUGH TO—

I GUESS I CAN'T BE THE REAL RICHEH DURING TESTS.

IF I DO WHAT THE ADULTS SAY, I'LL STOP BEING MYSELF.

BUT IF I SHIELD MYSELF FROM CHANGE, I CAN'T HELP WHEN IT'S NEEDED.

WHAT ROAD CAN I TAKE?

HOW DO I MOVE FORWARD BUT STILL BE THE PERSON I WANT TO BE?

WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?

IT WASN'T SO FAR AFTER ALL.

I MADE IT TO THE EXIT.

SO THAT MEANS THE TEST WAS ALMOST OVER.

HUH.

ANIMALS NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING TRUE TO THEMSELVES.

THE MYRPHONS ARE LUCKY.

DASH

THEY STILL THINK I'M ONE OF THEM.

HANG ON. I'M TAKING IT OFF.

FRMP

FRMP

OH. RIGHT.

THE MIRROR CLOAK OF BORROW-SHADE.

HUH?

WHY'D YOU STOP?

?

IT'S EUINI'S PALM QUIRE.

PFF

HEY...

PLUNK

HUH? THAT'S WEIRD.

PWAFF

PWAFF

HIS SEALS...

...AREN'T QUITE THE SAME AS WHAT'S IN THE PRIMER.

"M-MY HANDS WON'T STOP SHAKING."

"IF I FEEL SOMEONE'S EYES, I TREMBLE SO BAD, THE LINES GET ALL WAVY."

IT SEEMS LIKE...

...THERE'RE MORE SIGNS THAN USUAL.

HE MUST USE THE EXTRA SIGNS TO MAKE UP FOR THE POWER HE LOSES TO THE UNEVEN DESIGN.

I CAN SEE WHAT HE MEANT. NONE OF IT IS VERY STRAIGHT.

WOW, EUINI.

YOU REALLY THOUGHT THIS THROUGH.

PLIP

P-PLIP

THEY'RE ALL ORDINARY PRIMER SPELLS...

...BUT AT THE SAME TIME, YOU'RE HERE INSIDE EVERY SEAL.

...MY FEAR MADE ME STUBBORN. I REFUSED TO STUDY.

EVEN AFTER I RAN AWAY TO MASTER QIFREY'S ATELIER, LEAVING THE GREAT HALL FAR BEHIND...

I WAS AFRAID.

I THOUGHT THAT THE MORE SPELLS I LEARNED...

...THE MORE DILUTED AND **ORDINARY** I'D BECOME...

...UNTIL I WASN'T ME ANYMORE.

BUT NOW I SEE.

THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU WHO YOU ARE NEVER DISAPPEAR.

...AND THE WAYS YOU MAKE UP FOR YOUR WEAKNESSES.

...THE HEAVY THOUGHTS THAT WEIGH ON YOU...

THE THINGS YOU'RE GOOD AT...

ALL OF THEM ARE FOREVER WITH YOU.

BY TRYING TO PROTECT MYSELF...

...I WAS HOLDING MYSELF BACK.

BUT I'M NOT AFRAID OF OTHER PEOPLE'S SPELLS ANYMORE.

FLICK

FLICK

FLICK

FLICK

'CAUSE I'M THERE INSIDE THE SEALS, TOO.

INSIDE EVERY LINE.

AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.

EVER SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING.

CRUNCH

FWISH

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

!

KRSPLSH

SPLSH

QWAK

QWAK

QWAK

FRRSHH

FRRSHH

FWMP

NOW I KNOW...

...WHAT I WANT, TOO.

THE MYRPHONS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT TO ACCOMPLISH. THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER HESITATE.

...IS DRAW IT.

ストン
PLONK

AND ALL I HAVE TO DO...

I WON'T BE LONG.

HANG IN THERE, EUINI.

WHAT A CHORE THAT WAS.

AND THE HEM OF MY ROBE IS FILTHY.

HOW LONG MUST I ENDURE THE STENCH OF *BIRD DROPPINGS?*

LORD KUKROW? IS THAT YOU?

Thank goodness...

AH, BUT SOON I'LL BE BACK TO THE HALL'S SWEET SANCTUARY...

HAS THERE BEEN SOME DELAY?

WAS TODAY NOT THE DAY OF THE SECOND TEST?

Witch Hat Atelier

PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO EXPLAIN...

...YOUR PRESENCE HERE, LORD KUKROW.

JUST MY LUCK...

M-MY! I'D NOT IMAGINED MY LOWLY APPRENTICE'S *TEST DATE*...

...A MATTER OF NOTE TO SOMEONE SO ESTEEMED AS...

IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOUR APPRENTICE...

...WAS AMONG THE EXAMINEES.

...LORD EASTHIES...

...DEPUTY CAPTAIN OF THE KNIGHTS MORALIS.

Chapter 26

A HABIT IN PART PRECIPITATED BY THOSE...

...UNABLE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEIR OWN *APPRENTICES.*

EEEEEP!

ACK!

UM!

I ENDEAVOR TO KEEP ABREAST OF *ALL* MAGIC-RELATED HAPPENINGS BEYOND THE GREAT HALL.

SUCH NEGLI-GENCE.

THANKS TO YOU, I CAN LEAVE MY APPRENTICE IN THE PROCTOR'S CARE WITHOUT A WORRY!

OF COURSE, THAT'S A PRODUCT OF THE ORDER'S RELENTLESS EFFORTS!

FLUSTER

あわ

H-HARDLY NECESSARY, I'M SURE! THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS A MODEL OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY!

...

SKEDADDLE スタコラサッサ——ッ

WELL, I *REALLY* SHOULD GET GOING.

OF COURSE, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU KEEP SUCH A CLOSE EYE ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

...OUT OF ANY LOVE FOR PEACE AND SAFETY.

IT'LL ALL WORK OUT 'CAUSE THE WORLD'S AT PEACE, HM?

んまい NOM

QUITE THE OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK.

...IN STOPPING THE WITCHES WHO STAND TO DISTURB THAT PEACE.

I'D WAGER YOU TAKE MORE PLEASURE ...

IT IS BECAUSE WE KEEP WITCHES IN CHECK...

...THAT PEACE IS MAINTAINED, UTOWIN.

THE UNIMAGINED FREEDOM MAGIC GRANTS COMES WITH A NEED FOR INTENSE SELF-RESTRAINT.

A WAND AND A FEW DROPS OF INK ARE ALL IT TAKES TO ALTER ANOTHER'S FATE.

The Tower of Tomes

The Great Hall

Kalhn

THE FACT THAT KALHN WAS BUILT ON AN ISLAND...

...IN THE RIVER OF THE MARSH-WOODS...

...OR THAT THE GREAT HALL RESTS UPON THE SEABED IS NOT A CHOICE SOLELY DRIVEN BY NEED FOR SECRECY.

SUCH PLACES ALSO SERVE...

...AS SELF-IMPOSED ISOLATION FOR THOSE...

...WITH POWER TO TWIST THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR WORLD.

YEAH, OR MAYBE WE'RE ALL JUST A BUNCH OF RECLUSES WHO CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO INTERACT WITH OTHERS...

Witches tend to be like that, y'know?

CREEEAK

KA T

SHIIN !!

HEY, SIR EASTHIES! THINK FAST!

I'M GETTIN' ALL ANTSY COOPED UP DOWN HERE!

I'M DYIN' FOR SOME *ACTION!*

KSHNK キン

EKOH! SHAME ON YOU!

ANY NEW MISSIONS?

HOW LONG BEFORE OUR NEXT DISPATCH?!

BEHAVIOR LIKE *THAT* IS WHY YOU NEVER GET SENT OUT!

AND IF *YOU* DON'T GET TO GO, *I* DON'T EITHER!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, AMBUSHING HIM LIKE THAT?!

IF IT WERE ANYONE ELSE BUT HIM, YOU WOULD'VE LANDED THE BLOW!

FWIP

OOSH

SHP

WHOA! CUT IT OUT, ETLAN!

YES THERE *IS!* IF YOU WANNA SEE SOME ACTION OUTSIDE OF HERE, REEL IT IN!

TWINS COME AS A PACKAGE! IT'S TOUGH, BUT THERE'S NOTHIN' WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!

LOOM

SST

Huh?!

Huh?!

NOW, NOW, YOU TWO.

Hey!

Hey!

NO PLAYING WITH SPEARS.

GOOD THING, TOO. OTHERWISE, EVERYTHING DOWNSTREAM WOULD HAVE BEEN A TURGID MESS.

I'D SAY ANOTHER COLLAPSE IS UNLIKELY.

SIR, IN REGARD TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE STAIRCASE RIVER...

...IT SEEMS THE PULVERIZED BANKS HAVE BEEN HARDENED AND THE FALLEN BRIDGE REPLACED.

I SEE.

GOOD WORK, GALGA.

ヒョイ HOP

ヒョイ HOP

...BUT WE WERE UNABLE TO FIND TRACE OF ANY SEAL OF COMMENSURATE SCALE.

LULUCI AND I SURVEYED THE AREA...

ヒョイ HOP

QUICK, EKOH! WRAP HIM WITH YOUR PENNANT!

GRRR!

SIR EASTHIES! GALGA WON'T GIVE BACK OUR SPEARS!

THEY ARE NOT TOYS TO TRIFLE WITH.

MIGHT I REMIND YOU BOTH THAT THE PENNANTS ARE CONTRAPTIONS PERMITTED *ONLY* TO THE ORDER.

FWOOP

HUH?

?

AAAACK!

OBLIGED, LULUCI.

MY PLEA-SURE.

THANKS, LULUCI.

じたFLAIL

STOP IT, LULUCI!

じたFLAIL

LET US *DOWN*, LULUCI!

じたFLAIL

じたFLAIL

ばたFLAIL

ばたFLAIL

HE IS CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED AT A MEDICAL FACILITY IN KALHN.

THE YOUTH INJURED AT THE RIVER HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH A SEALCHAIR TO ASSIST HIS MOBILITY.

SEE THAT YOU DO. THE YOUNG ONES HAD YET TO PASS THE SECOND TEST.

THEY MAY HAVE BEEN SEEN CASTING.

WE'VE LEFT THE MATTER IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL WITCHES...

...BUT ONCE THE BOY IS WELL, WE'LL RETURN TO ASSESS ANY PROBLEMATIC MEMORIES.

NGH!

XÐ

WHUMP ドシャ!!

WE MUST BE EVER VIGILANT.

...BUT THEY ARE NOT FOOLS. THE SMALLEST SLIP COULD EXPOSE EVERYTHING.

THE OUTSIDERS LACK KNOWLEDGE...

FWAP

UTOWIN!

HM?

PROCEED WITH EKOH AND ETLAN TO THE TRAINING GROUND.

ROUND UP THE REST OF THE ORDER FOR TRAINING.

WOO-HOO!

GALGA AND LULUCI, PREPARE A WRITTEN REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO CAPTAIN VINANNA.

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

YOU GOT IT.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACT DRAWS NEAR. WE'LL SEE ALL MANNER OF WITCHES COMING AND GOING ONCE PREPARATIONS FOR SILVER EVE ARE UNDERWAY.

I WANT US ALERT AND ON TOP OF THINGS AT ALL TIMES!

!

000

YES, SIR!

SHF

AH, I GET IT NOW, EAS.

SO *THAT'S* WHY YOU'D LOOKED INTO THIS.

AND THE OTHERS TAKING IT TODAY ARE QIFREY'S APPREN-TICES.

A LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR THE SECOND TEST?

WHY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY?

...SEEMED LIKE A PRETTY ORDINARY, AVERAGE KID TO ME.

'COURSE, THAT GIRL...

TAKE CARE NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE BASED ON AGE, UTOWIN.

CHILDREN ARE THE MOST UNHINDERED BEINGS IN ALL THE WORLD.

...IT'S *CHAOS.*

AND THAT YOUTHFUL LACK OF SELF-RESTRAINT IS NOT FREEDOM...

...WOULD THAT IT BE AS UNENDING...

...AS THIS QUIET SEABED UPON WHICH WE REST.

?

IF THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS A MODEL OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY ...

WE MUST, ABOVE ALL ELSE, ENSURE THE ERRORS OF YORE ARE NOT REPEATED.

IF WE FAIL TO LEARN FROM OUR PAST, THEN IN TIME...

...THE WORLD WILL...

YOU OKAY, EAS?

BLUB

FRSHH

FRRSHHH

FRRRSHHH

SHIIINE

TINK

TINK

THIS WAY!

THE ORB SAYS WE SHOULD HEAD STRAIGHT DOWN HERE!

I'VE ADMINISTERED FIRST-AID, BUT QIFREY LOOKS TO BE IN A LOT OF PAIN.

WE SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY.

GOOD WORK, COCO.

THANK GOODNESS I HAD RICHEH'S RIBBON OF CRYSTAL WITH ME.

IF WE FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE ORB, WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN.

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.

JUST LEAVE IT UP TO MY STRETCHER SKIFF.

I CAN MAKE MY OWN WAY ON FOOT, ALAIRA.

DON'T MIND ME. WHAT'S IMPORTANT ...

...IS THAT WE LOCATE THE APPRENTICES.

Y'KNOW... AS A *WITCH* AND ALL.

WE...

...CAN'T HAVE YOU LOSING USE OF YOUR DRAWING HAND.

OLD MAGIC PERMEATES THIS PLACE.

...WHAT OTHER DANGERS MAY BE LURKING.

THERE'S NO TELLING...

HEE HEE.

I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST...

...CHILD OF HOPE.

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 27

TUG

YOU ALL RIGHT?

WATCH YOUR FOOTING.

SST

THE WHOLE SERPENTBACK CAVE'S TOPSY-TURVY THANKS TO ROMONON MAGIC.

THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW IF WE'RE WALKING ON FLOOR, WALL, OR CEILING.

SURE IS A PAIN NOT BEING ABLE TO FLY.

WONDER HOW MUCH FURTHER IT IS TO THE EXIT.

SO IT COULD BE REALLY DANGEROUS IF WE SLIP.

WE BETTER BE CARE...

...FUL ...?

SHRK

SHRK

SHRK

WHERE'D THESE WALLS COME FROM?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

!!

FWISH

GASP

IS THIS PART OF THE ROMONON MAZE?

...

NO. THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE.

FR

SPLSH

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

I'VE GOT YOU NOW, BRIMMED CAP!!

!

THAT *FOOL!*

MASTER QIFREY! WAIT!

KER-SPLSH!

MISS ALAIRA, PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO HELP HIM!

MASTER'S *HURT!* HE SHOULDN'T BE FIGHTING!

...AND I CAN'T JUST ABANDON YOU TWO AND PURSUE THE BRIMMED CAP.

...WE STILL NEED TO MAKE SURE THE OTHER CHILDREN ARE SAFE...

SWISH

SWRSH

SWISH

I WOULD, BUT...

PA-FWOING!

THAT'S REAL SWEET OF YOU, BUT...

TE-TETI-TA-DAH!

MISS ALAIRA...

WE PROMISE NOT TO MOVE FROM THIS SPOT!

TETI-TA-DAH!

WE'LL HIDE HERE, UNDER THIS TENT MADE OF SAND!

SO... *PLEASE* ...

WE'RE THE REASON MASTER QIFREY GOT HURT. HE WAS PROTECTING US.

SCRATCH カリ カリ SCRATCH

...

I'LL BE BACK WITH QIFREY. IT WON'T TAKE LONG!

HERE. I'M LEAVING YOU THIS SEAL. IT CREATES A BARRIER OF WIND.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, USE IT TO PROTECT YOUR-SELVES.

COCO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT, WON'T THEY?

I FIGURED NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD CHANCE TO DRAW SOME SPELLS...

...THAT MIGHT COME IN HANDY LATER.

OF COURSE!

SIMPLE STUFF THAT EVEN *WE* CAN DRAW!

...OR A SPELL TO DRILL FOOTHOLDS TO HELP US CLIMB!

LIKE, *BANDAGES* BASED ON RICHEH'S RIBBONS...

FWAP

FLAP

FLAP

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

RIGHT!

WE SHOULD DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP!

WHAT'S GOT YOU SO FRIGHTENED?

UM, COCO? I THINK I KNOW WHY...

BRUSH-BUDDY? WHAT IS IT?

SHUR

THEN LET'S GET STAR—

IP!

KRAKOOM

I DON'T KNOW...

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S HURT.

IF WE STAY QUIET, DO YOU THINK HE'LL GO AWAY?

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING.

THERE'RE CREATURES LIKE *THAT* LIVING DOWN HERE?!

IS THAT A SCALE-WOLF?!

GRRRR

WHEN ANIMALS ARE SCARED AND INJURED...

...I'VE HEARD THEY CAN GET *REALLY* AGGRESSIVE!

GRAH

G—

GET OUT ALAIRA'S WIND SPELL!

TMP TMP

HURRY! CAST IT!

WHAM

SWIRSH

DID IT JUST *PROTECT* US? WHY?!

A-ANOTHER SCALEWOLF?!

NO, WAIT! IT'S NOT A WOLF...

KRSH

...IT'S... A *BRUSH-BUDDY*?!

BRUM BA-DUM!

FWAMP

AGOTT!

OH, THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE!

FWIP

NO, YOU TWO! IT'S *ME*!!

GLANCE

EUINI WASN'T SO LUCKY.

RICHEH'S SAFE. SHE'S HEADED OUT OF THE CAVE.

RICHEH AND EUINI AREN'T WITH YOU?!

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?!

HE'S BEEN...

...MARKED WITH A SEAL. A *FORBIDDEN* ONE.

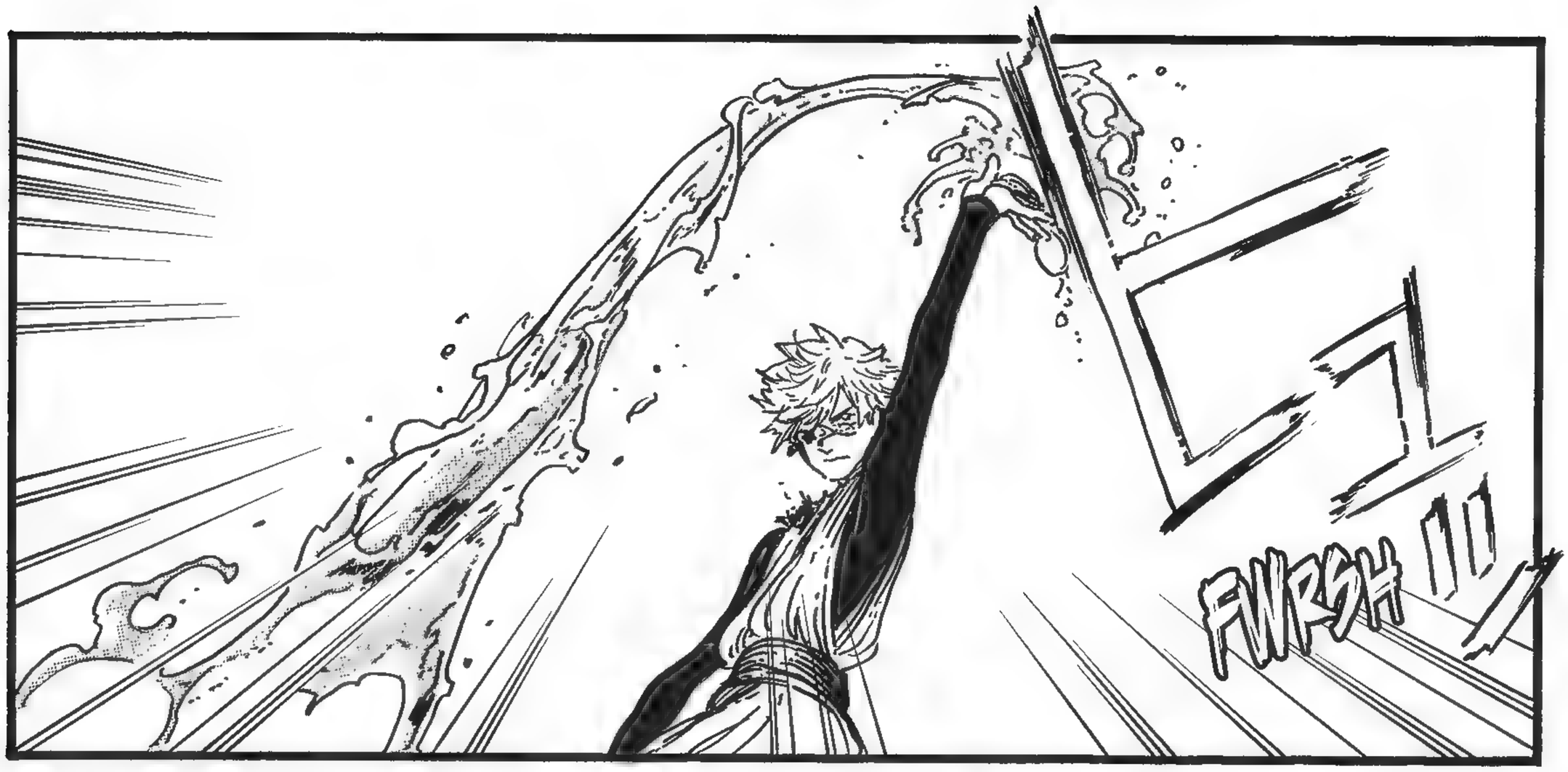
NO.

DON'T TELL ME...

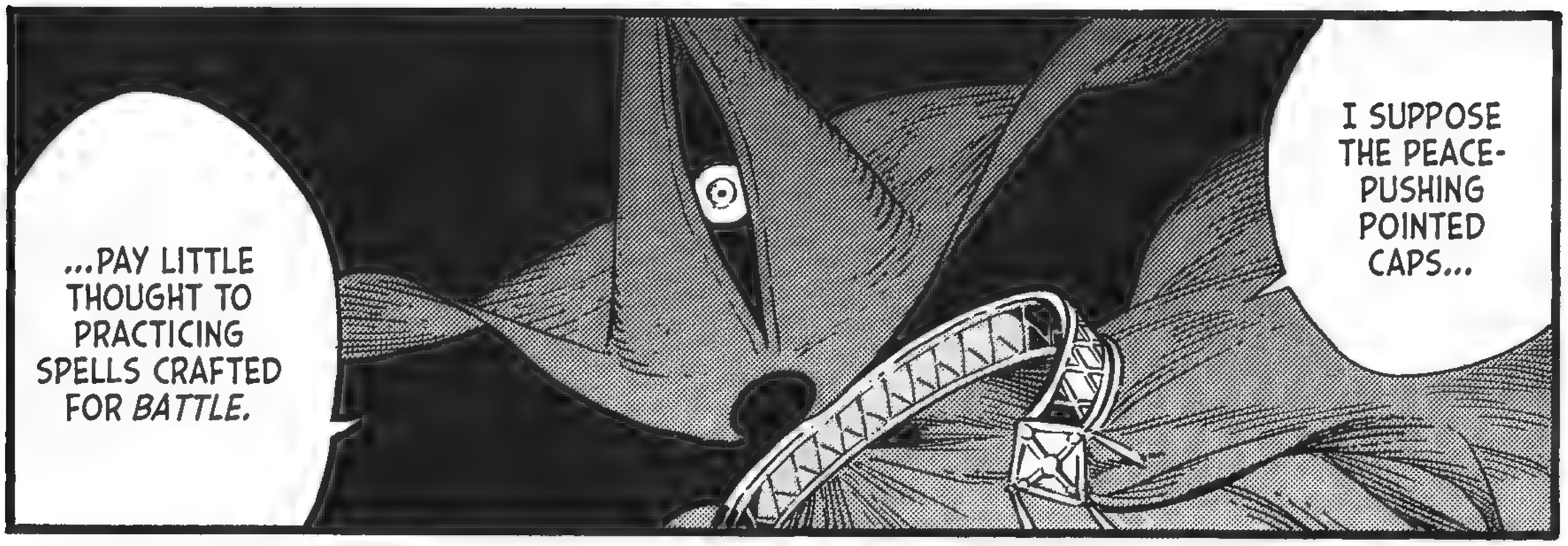
THAT WOLF ISN'T *EUINI*, IS IT?!

THAT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT.

A BRIMMED CAP DID THIS TO HIM. ONE THAT HAS NO BODY!


FWRSH !!

FLUTTER
FWAM!
TELL ME, EXACTLY WHICH PART OF ME DO YOU INTEND TO *HIT?*
HAH! IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT? A BIT OF *WATER?*


...PAY LITTLE THOUGHT TO PRACTICING SPELLS CRAFTED FOR *BATTLE.*
I SUPPOSE THE PEACE-PUSHING POINTED CAPS...

THNK
THNK
THNK
A PHYSICAL ASSAULT WORKS BEST WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING TO STRIKE!
WATCH AND LEARN.
KRSHNK!
MAGIC MEANT FOR BATTLE, YOU SAY?
ZSH

...AND HOW WELL YOU KNOW AND APPLY THEM.

ZSHH

...BE THEY FOR BATTLE, AID, OR DAILY LIFE. IN THE END, IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO FUNDAMENTALS...

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT ALL SPELLS ARE CAREFULLY TAILORED...

TAP

TAP

ZSH!

I TAKE IT YOUR MASTER NEVER INSTILLED SUCH KNOWLEDGE.

HMPH! CAN'T ADMIT DEFEAT?!

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, YOU'LL FIND NO PART OF ME TO—

FWOOM

FWIIISH

I MAY NOT TRAIN TO *FIGHT*...

...BUT LEARNING TO READ SPELLS...

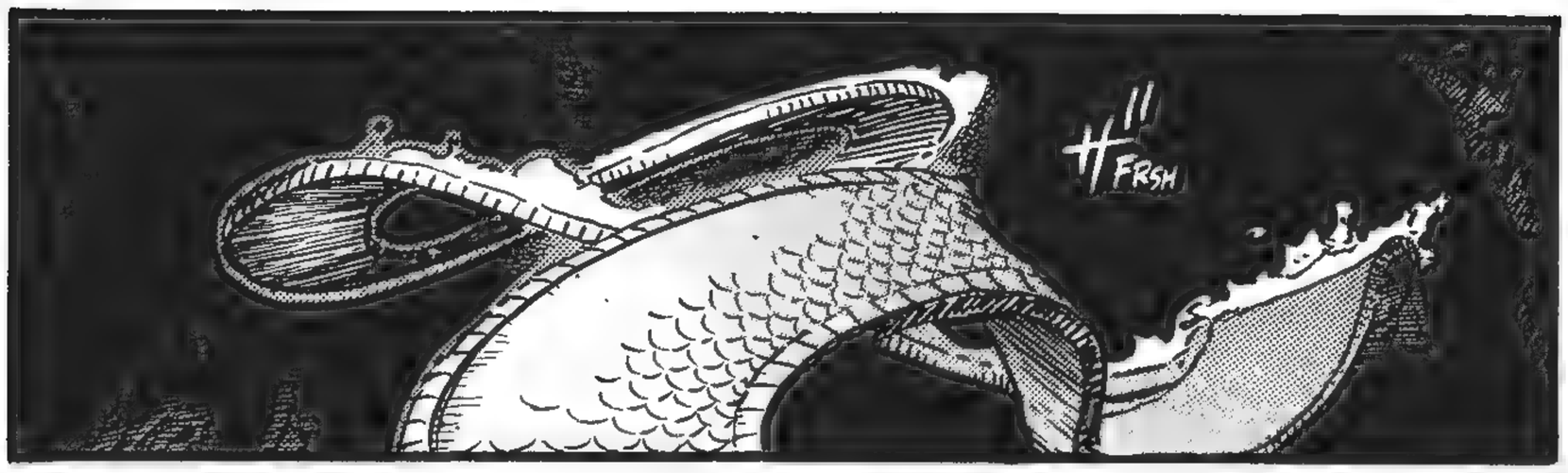
...IS PART OF MY DAILY ROUTINE.

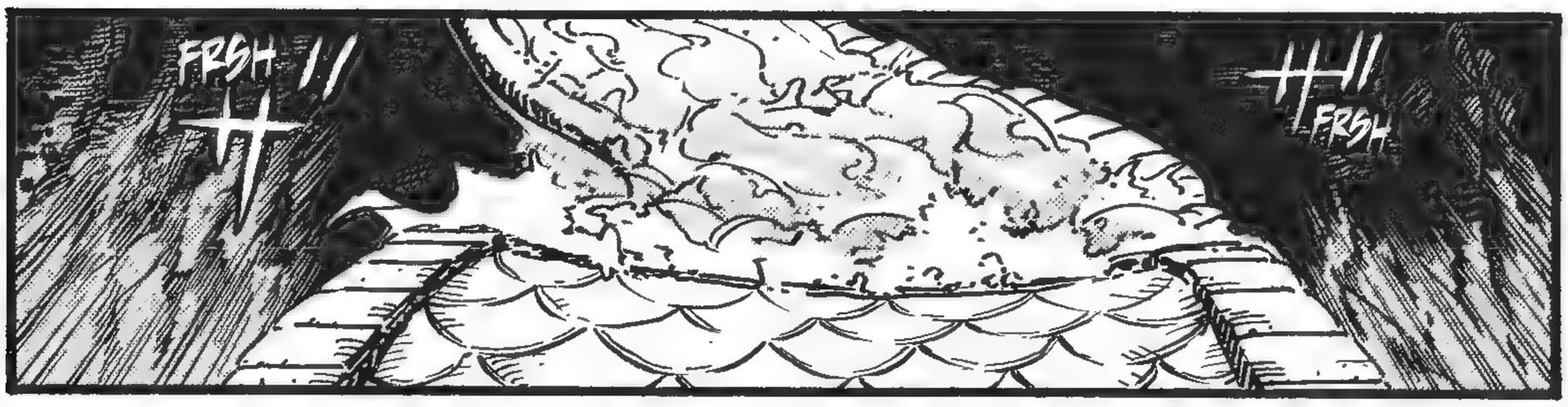
I NEEDED BUT A GLANCE...

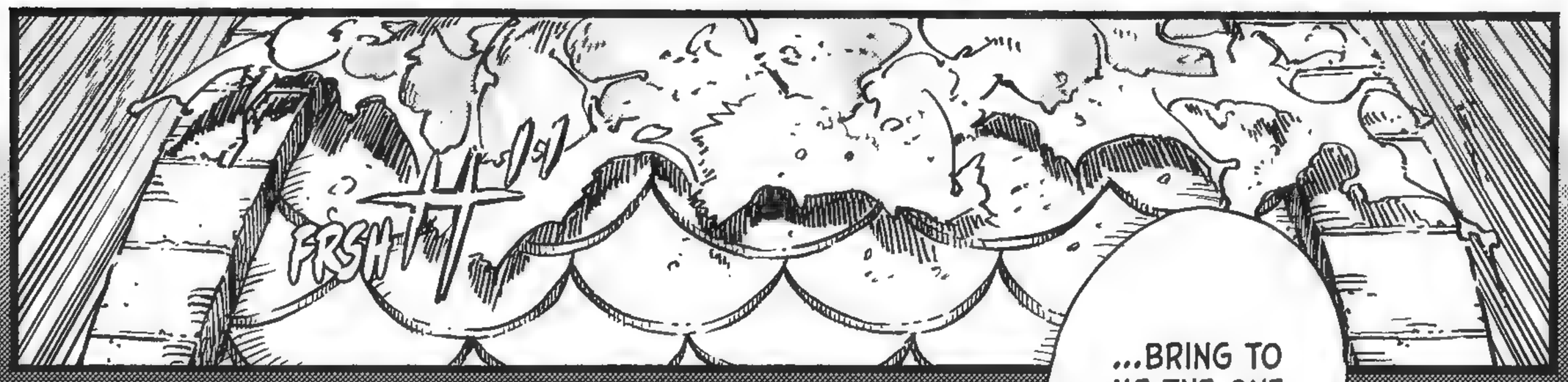
...TO UNDER-STAND *YOUR* MAGIC...

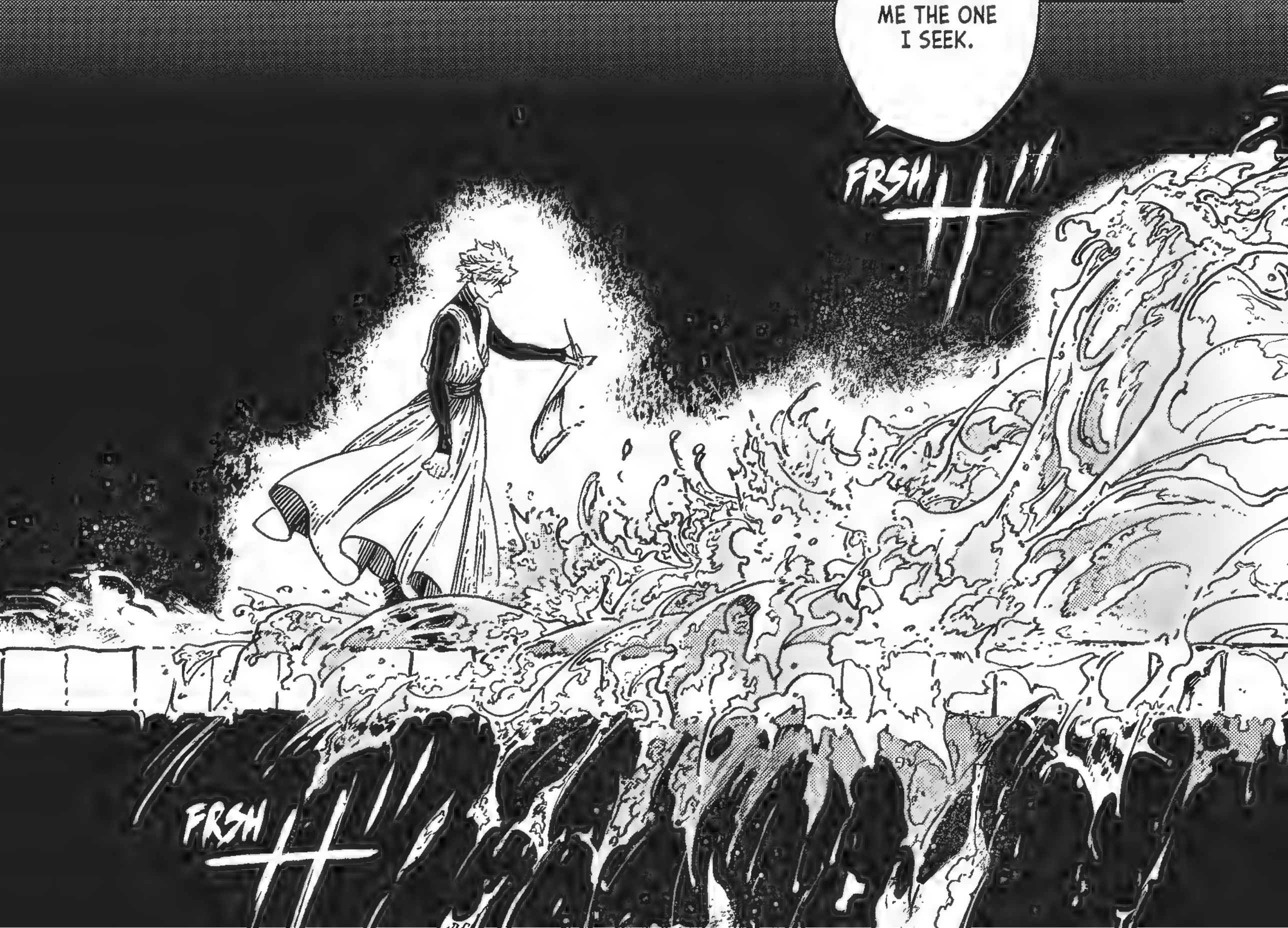
...AND ITS WEAKNESSES.

O, RUSHING WAVE...


FRSH


FRSH
FRSH


FRSH
...BRING TO ME THE ONE I SEEK.


FRSH
FRSH

FRSPLSH

"
"
"

AT LAST WE COME FACE TO FACE.

2HF

"
"
"...

...

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I MERELY SPLASHED AROUND IN SEARCH OF THE CONNECTION.

ONE COULD HAVE UNPARALLELED MASTERY OVER THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS...

...BUT IT WOULD NOT ENABLE FREE FLIGHT IN THE CONFINES OF ROMONON'S CAVERN.

OF COURSE! HIS VOLLEYS OF WATER!

YOU SAT SAFE AND SOUND ATOP THE SERPENTBACK ROAD, DIRECTING YOUR ASSAULT FROM AFAR.

THE CAPE ITSELF IS BUT A CONTRAPTION. A DECOY AND CONDUIT FOR YOUR SPELLS.

THE RAGGED EDGES ARE MEANT TO CONCEAL THE THREAD THAT LINKS BACK TO YOU.

MAGIC THAT NEGLECTS PURPOSE IN FAVOR OF ROUNDABOUT DECEPTION. HOW AMATEUR.

PLICK

...BECAUSE IT *HAD* TO BE.

IF YOU TRULY HAD NO FORM, WHY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO REVEAL YOURSELF? THE CAPE WAS CLEARLY ONLY THERE...

...BY ONE BLESSED WITH WINSOME FEATURES LIKE YOURSELF—ONE WHO CAN WALK BOLDLY IN DAYLIGHT.

FWIP

I EXPECT EVEN MY APPRENTICES KNOW BETTER.

I WOULD NOT THINK MY REASONS EASILY UNDER-STOOD...

THE RESULT OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC GONE TERRIBLY WRONG.

...A SLIPSHOD FUSION OF MAN AND BEAST.

THRUST

PER-HAPS SO.

BUT YOU AND I HAVE MORE PRESSING BUSINESS.

SPEAK.

DO YOU KNOW ME?

I AM ASKING WHETHER YOU *KNOW ME!*

...

WHAT?

THEN TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF A BRIMMED CAP WITH VISAGE LIKE MINE?!

NO! I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE!

I DO NOT UNDER-STAND.

I'M AFRAID *APPEARANCE* IS A POOR CLUE TO WORK FROM.

...

WE ONLY CONVERGE WHEN SAFELY BEHIND BRIMS.

OOF!

WHACK

GASP!

RUMMAGE

ALAIRA —

QIFREY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

DESPITE THE *INCONVENIENCE*, THIS HAS PROVIDED AMPLE DIVERSION.

OUR GOAL HERE WILL SOON BE REALIZED.

SHWIR

WHAT ARE YOU HERE TO ACCOMPLISH ?!

YOUR *GOAL?*

DON'T PUSH IT! YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION FOR THIS!

QIFREY!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

THAT WAS CLOSE!

COCO! LOOK OUT!

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY.

DON'T WORRY! I MADE THE SEAL ROUGH. THEY'LL BREAK APART ANY MOMENT NOW!

BUT WON'T HE JUST FOLLOW US?!

IT'S NO GOOD! ALAIRA'S BARRIER ISN'T MUCH MORE THAN A DISTRACTION!

I COULD MAKE IT STRONGER, BUT EUINI MIGHT GET HURT!

TMP TMP TMP TMP

THIS WAY! UP THE STEPS!

COCO!

GRUMBLE

LEAN T"

?!

TH—

THANKS FOR CATCHING ME.

CLASP

LISTEN.

A-AGOTT? WHAT IS IT?

THE BRIMMED CAP THAT TURNED EUINI. HE REFERRED TO YOU AS THE "CHILD OF HOPE."

WHAT...?

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY.

WE WISH TO HAVE HER USE THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS *PROPERLY.*

...SHE WILL COME TO VALIDATE THAT MAGIC WHICH WAS OUTLAWED AND LOST TO TIME.

AS SHE LEARNS TO WIELD THEM FOR PROPER REASONS, TO ACHIEVE PROPER GOALS...

AS AN OUTSIDER IN CONTRADICTION OF THE PRINCIPLES, SHE WILL UNLOCK...

...THE INFINITE POSSIBILI-TIES...

...HE... HE SAID *WHAT?*

...AND *FREEDOMS* OF THE SPELLS STOLEN AWAY BY ILL-CONCEIVED RULES.

THAT'S WHAT HE CALLED YOU.

THE CHILD OF HOPE.

THEY MIGHT BE TRYING TO GET *YOU* TO CAST FORBIDDEN SPELLS.

LISTEN TO ME, COCO.

THEY MIGHT...

THE BRIMMED CAPS CONSPIRE TO BRING FORBIDDEN MAGIC BACK INTO USE.

I THINK THIS AWFUL SPELL THEY CAST ON EUINI IS MEANT TO CONVINCE *YOU*. THEY WANT YOU TO DON A BRIM.
THEY WANT YOU TO CHOOSE THEIR PATH IN ORDER TO SAVE HIM!

CHAPTER 27 ♦ END

Witch Hat Atelier

TRANS-MUTING THE BODY.

'TIS A CURSE.

ALTERING THE NATURAL WORLD.

'TIS RUIN-ATION.

ETERNAL YOUTH.

'TIS A VIO-LATION.

MEDDLING WITH THE MIND.

'TIS SUBJU-GATION.

I SIMPLY CANNOT UNDER-STAND.

WHY SHOULD IT BE THIS WAY?

CHOMP

MAN HAS LIMITS BEYOND WHICH HE IS NOT MEANT TO REACH...

...AS WELL AS A FATE WHOSE LINES HE SHALL NOT STRIVE TO ALTER.

MAGIC IS CAPABLE OF *ANYTHING.*

WHY SHOULD SO MUCH OF IT BE SHUT AWAY...?

Chapter 28

AND WHEN HE CAME AFTER US...

...HE SAID ALL OF THIS IS A TEST FOR *YOU.*

THEY MIGHT BE TRYING...

LISTEN, COCO. THAT BRIMMED CAP REFERRED TO YOU...

...AS THE CHILD OF HOPE.

THE CHILD OF HOPE...

...TO GET *YOU* TO CAST FORBIDDEN SPELLS...

COCO?

...THANK GOODNESS.

IF THE BRIMMED CAPS REALLY ARE TRYING TO GET US TO BREAK THE SPELL...

'CAUSE IF YOU'RE RIGHT...

HUH?!

FOR *WHAT?!*

...!

...IT MEANS THERE'S HOPE. THERE'S A WAY TO BRING EUINI BACK AGAIN.

FORBIDDEN MAGIC MUST NEVER BE CAST! THE RISK IS TOO GREAT!

E—

EVEN IF THERE *IS* A WAY TO SAVE HIM...

CLASP

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANY OF US...

IF YOU VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLES, YOU'LL HAVE YOUR MEMORY ERASED.

AND THERE'S NO GUARANTEE YOU'D SUCCEED IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YEAH.

THANK YOU, AGOTT.

DON'T YOU, COCO?

...JUST HOW DISASTROUS UNFAMILIAR MAGIC CAN BE.

MY ONLY CONCERN IS THAT WE DON'T FALL INTO A TRAP LAID BY THE SAME WITCHES WHO TRANSFORMED EUINI.

SWAT?!

HUH?!

LEAN

YOU'RE *WORRIED* ABOUT ME, AREN'T YOU?

I'VE NEVER SEEN...

...ANY-THING SO TERRIFYING. SO *SINISTER.*

WHAT THEY DID TO HIM IS REASON ENOUGH TO DRIVE THE BRIMMED CAPS AND ALL FORBIDDEN SPELLS FROM THE WORLD FOREVER.

MAYBE NOT ON YOUR OWN...

MY WHOLE BODY WAS PARALYZED WITH FEAR. I FELT SO ALONE.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM.

FRSH-FRSH

THAT'S *THREE* HEADS!

THREE TIMES MORE IDEAS!

GWIP

WHOMP

...BUT WE'VE GOT *THREE* WITCHES RIGHT HERE!

BEHOLD! TETIA'S PAIR OF PIGTAILS HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A TRIO!

TIME TO PUSH OUR BRAINS TO THE LIMIT AND FIND A WAY!

ANY HARDSHIP CAN BE TURNED TO HAPPINESS.

A SINGLE IDEA IS ALL IT TAKES. THAT'S THE POWER OF MAGIC!

ANY SUGGESTION, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS!

DECIDING WHICH ONES WE CAN USE COMES LATER!

LET'S START BY SCOURING OUR MINDS. THROW IT ALL OUT THERE.

BEAM

WOW, TETIA! YOU'RE RIGHT!

AND IT'S THE *HABITS* YOU'VE BUILT...

...THAT YOU CAN RELY ON WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH.

DUDUDU

HEY!

ISN'T THAT...

PRECISELY!

...THE SAME THING WE DO DURING LESSONS AT THE ATELIER?

!

SOUNDS GOOD!

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. LET'S GET STARTED.

THANK YOU, TETIA. YOU HELPED US FEEL BRAVE AGAIN.

TREMBLE
TREMBLE

SHF

HEARING YOU SAY THANKS GIVES *ME* COURAGE, TOO!

NO, THANK *YOU*, COCO!

Where does she keep it all?

LOOK AT ALL THAT STUFF AGOTT WAS CARRYING AROUND!

Whoa!

THUMP
THA-THUMP
THUMP

GREAT. NOW HOW ABOUT YOU FIND YOUR *QUIRES* IN ADDITION TO YOUR COURAGE?

SQ-THNK
SQ-THNK
SQ-THNK
SQ-THNK

FLOATGLOW LAMP

RISING PLATFORM OF WATER

BOULDER-STRETCH ROPE

GRASPING WIND

WE'LL START BY LOOKING AT THE SEALS WE'VE USED SO FAR...

RAINBRINGER SEAL

REPETITION SEAL

PYREBALL SEAL

SKYSOARING SEAL

WATERFLINGER SEAL

BIRD OF LIGHT BEACON

SYLPH SHOES SEAL

WALL BREAKER SEAL

FLYING PUPPET OF DIVERSION

THESE SEEMED LIKE ONES WE COULD USE. NOW WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT *HOW.*

HMM...

NO GOOD EITHER, HUH?

HRMM...

WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?

HRR-RMMM...

GOOD POINT. TURNING BACK TIME ON A *PERSON* IS FORBIDDEN.

AND EUINI'S BODY WOULD JUST GET STUCK IN A LOOP, REPEATING THE SAME MOMENT OVER AND OVER.

WELL, THE SIGIL OF REPETITION IS OUT.

BWUF!

MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE TO GET RID OF THE *SEAL.*

WHAT AM I SAYING? REMOVING A TATTOO'S IMPOSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?

WHAT IF WE FOUND A WAY TO SEPARATE EUINI FROM THE INK?

HUH? WHY'D THAT FLAME GO OUT?

MAYBE ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS STOP IT FROM WORKING.

...AND ANOTHER ONE TO PUT IT *OUT!*

TWO SPELLS ON TOP OF EACH OTHER! ONE TO *START* A FIRE...

SO IF WE DREW THE SAME SPELL THAT'S ON EUINI, AND MADE IT THE SAME SIZE, BUT *BACKWARDS*...

...AND THEN PUT THE TWO SEALS ON TOP OF EACH OTHER...

IF YOU REVERSE THE SIGNS, YOU REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF THE SEAL.

...

MAYBE THEY'D CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT...

...AND EUINI WOULD GO BACK TO NORMAL!

IS STUFF LIKE THIS FORBIDDEN, TOO?

SORRY. SILLY IDEA.

UM! I MEAN!

HEH HEH...

...IT WOULDN'T ACTUALLY COUNT AS *CASTING.*

I FIGURED MAYBE IF THE SPELL WAS MEANT TO *ERASE* ANOTHER...

...I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

'CAUSE MAGIC IS THE BLESSING BROUGHT TO THE WORLD.

IT NEVER CROSSED ANYONE'S MIND TO *ERASE* IT!

I'M SAYING THERE'S NO *PRECEDENT!*

JUST A DOPEY

YEAH. SORRY. SILLY ME.

IDEA.

HUH?

IN SHORT...

...IT CAN'T BE *FORBIDDEN* IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S NEVER BEEN THOUGHT OF!

RIGHT!

I THINK THIS COULD WORK!

ALL WE NEED NOW IS TO FIND THE SEAL THAT WAS DRAWN...

IF THE *EFFECT* IS REMOVED, HE'LL RETURN TO NORMAL, EVEN IF THE SEAL'S STILL THERE.

...AND WE'LL BE able TO SAVE EUINI!

!

HEHE...

NOT A BAD IDEA AT ALL.

GOOD THINKING, COCO.

AND IT MIGHT BE THE SAME FOR MY MOM IF I COULD FIND THE ONE I DREW...

IT'S JUST SOME-THING...

...I'VE HAD ON MY MIND FOR A WHILE NOW.

...THEN I'M SURE...

...IT HAS TO BE POSSIBLE TO SAVE MOM!

IF WE MANAGE TO HELP EUINI...

GOOD QUES-TION.

PWEE!

...HOW DO WE GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO EUINI...

...TO CHECK THE SEAL THAT'S ON HIS SKIN?

SO, UM...

PWEE!

WITH *THIS* AND *THIS* TOGETHER...

...I THINK WE COULD MANAGE IT.

WHAT ABOUT THESE SPELLS HERE?

PERK

FWAH

GRAH

WHEN A SCALEWOLF SEES ANOTHER SCALE-WOLF...

...THEY'LL TRY TO SLAM INTO EACH OTHER. IT'S INSTINCT.

COME AND GET ME!

OVER HERE, COCO!

GOTCHA!

COCO, YOU LEAP AROUND IN FRONT OF HIM UNTIL HE'S TANGLED UP IN ROPES OF STONE.

THEN, LEAD HIM TOWARD TETIA.

WHW

OOSH

ALAIRA'S WALL OF WIND IS PERFECT FOR KEEPING US SAFE *AND* PINNING EUINI DOWN AT THE SAME TIME!

READY TO GO!

THICK PANELS MADE THE SAME WAY WE TURN SAND INTO *CLOTH!*

I WOULD'VE NEVER COME UP WITH THAT ON MY OWN!

AND NOW...

...A CAGE MADE FROM WALLS OF SAND!!

PWEE!

FWIP

WE'VE GOT HIM LOCKED DOWN!

HURRY, AGOTT!

AND BRUSH-BUDDY, TOO!

YOU'RE UP!

ONCE HE'S STUCK, WE SEND IN BRUSH-BUDDY.

FWISH

AND BRUSH-BUDDY'S SHARP NOSE...

...DRAWN TO THE SCENT OF INK...

FWOMP!

THAT'S THE SPOT!

PWEEE!

...WILL BE OUR TICKET ...

...TO FINDING THE SEAL!

WRIGGLE

IT'S SMALLER THAN I EXPECTED.

THIS IS THE KIND OF THING RICHEH WOULD BE GOOD AT.

TELLING HER SHE WOULDN'T BE ANY HELP TO EUINI WAS TOO HARSH.

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SAID THAT.

PLEASE MAKE IT BACK, EUINI! FOR RICHEH'S SAKE, TOO!

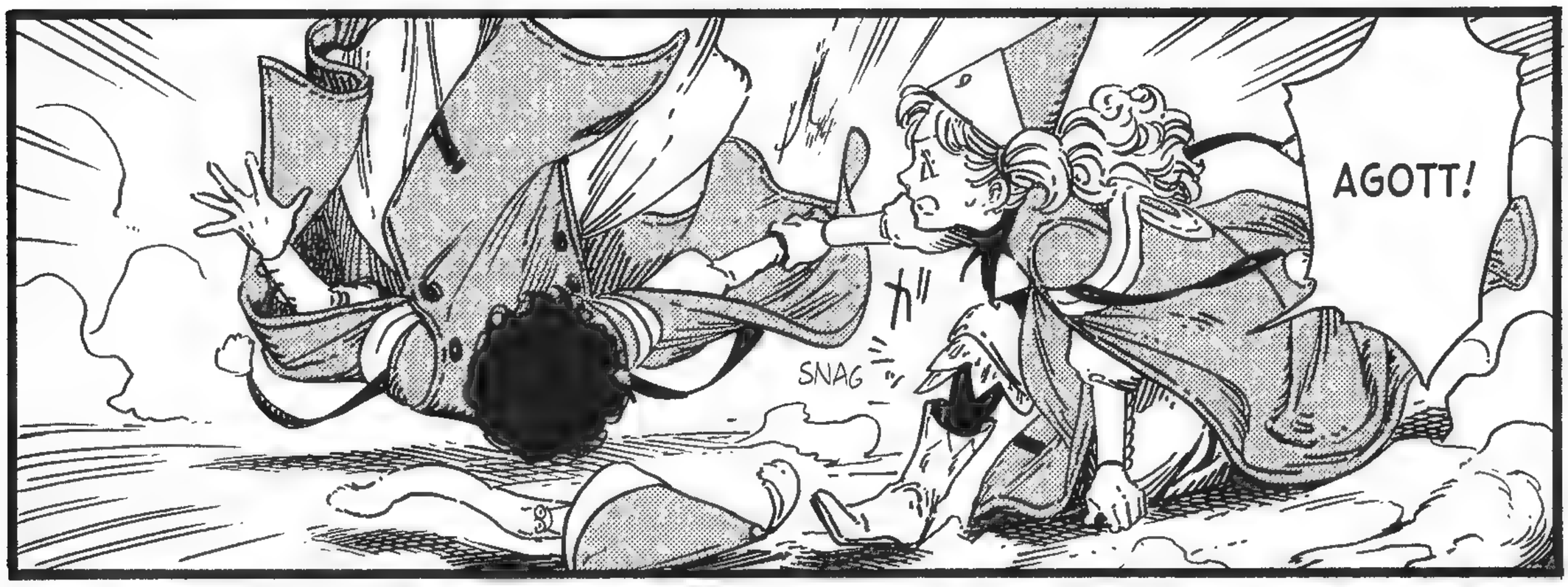
THERE! IT'S DONE!

FLASH

M-

ZWRSH

WHAM


AGOTT!
SNAG

CRUMBLE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT EUINI?
!!
FORGET ME. I'M FINE.

GR

AH

NO.
WHY?

HE
DIDN'T
TURN
BACK.

WHY
DIDN'T IT
WORK? DID
I DRAW IT
WRONG?

WHAT
WAS—

WAS I NOT
PRECISE
ENOUGH?

AGOTT!

NGH!

TWHACK

SXRXX

HEEELP!

TWHACK

EEK!

THWCK

TH-THWCK

THEY'RE STUCK DOWN THERE!

I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO HELP!

AND IF REVERSING THE SEAL DOESN'T WORK...

WHAT DO I DO NOW? MY FRIENDS ARE IN DANGER.

EUINI'S STILL STUCK AS A WOLF.

IT DIDN'T WORK!

ONCE A BODY'S BEEN ALTERED BY MAGIC...

DOES THAT MEAN...?

...ARE *NORMAL* SPELLS NOT ENOUGH TO CHANGE IT BACK AGAIN?!

PRECISELY.

OF COURSE, YOU'RE SUCH A CLEVER GIRL...

...I'M SURE SOMEWHERE IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND, YOU'D ALREADY GUESSED IT TO BE SO.

THE MASK WITH THE EYEBALL. IT'S *YOU.*

EYE OF THE WORLD.

THE LIDLESS ONE.

IGUIN, AT YOUR SERVICE.

IT WAS NOT OUR INTENT TO BRING ANGUISH TO YOUR HEART LIKE THIS.

BE NOT AFRAID, CHILD OF HOPE.

TMP

FWAH

AS AN APOLOGY, I WOULD SHARE WITH YOU A SECRET.

A WAY TO SAVE THE BOY. THE MEANS TO BREAK THE SPELL.

AND LET ME GUESS.

IT INVOLVES ...

...FORBIDDEN MAGIC, DOESN'T IT?

...!

BUT OF COURSE.

BESIDES, YOU'D LIKE TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS, YES?

I'LL NOT SAY A WORD. ALL WITCHES HAVE SECRETS.

BE AT EASE. YOUR FRIENDS NEVER HAVE TO KNOW.

COME, COCO.

IT IS TIME TO DRAW.

CHAPTER 28 ♦ END

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 29

TIME TO DRAW, COCO.

THE ONLY SPELL THAT CAN SAVE THE BOY...

...IS AN ANCIENT AND FORBIDDEN ONE.

YOU SHALL LEARN TO USE THEM.

AND *I* WILL TEACH YOU—

NO!!

SKKRT

ARE YOU TREM-BLING?

DO THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS FRIGHTEN YOU?

THEY ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THE SPELLS YOU KNOW.

KWIP MO LI

FW

RSH

WHUMP

FORBIDDEN SPELLS...

BAD...!

...EUINI? ARE YOU IN THERE?

I WOULDN'T SAY IT WAS A SUCCESS, BUT IT'S NOT A FAILURE, EITHER!

SO OUR PLAN *DID* WORK...?

HE CAN COMMUNICATE AGAIN. WE BROUGHT SOME PART OF HIM BACK!

POP

CLAIMING ONLY FORBIDDEN SPELLS WORK IS A BIG OLD LIE!

EVERY LITTLE ADJUSTMENT UNLOCKS NEW POSSIBILITY!

IF THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY! THAT'S HOW MAGIC WORKS!

TETIA...

TMP

MY, MY.

YOU NULLIFIED PART OF THE EFFECT BY REVERSING THE SIGNS.

SHAKE

TMP

HOW MARVELOUS! WHAT INGENUITY!

SHAKE

...IT ONLY PAINS ME THAT WE DO NOT LIVE IN SUCH AN AGE NOW.

AS I WITNESS EACH STEP YOU GIRLS TAKE...

IN DAYS OF OLD, ALL POWERS COULD BE USED FREELY.

WHAT WE LACKED IN ORDER, WE MADE UP IN *INNOVATION.*

WHAT... DOES *THAT* MEAN?

...THAT YOU MIGHT BECOME A *TRUE* WITCH.

I WOULD SEE YOU UNFETTERED BY THE POINTED CAPS' PRINCIPLES ...

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?!

!

SST

OBSERVE.

A DEMON-STRATION.

MAGIC YOU MUST NOT KNOW.

SPELLS YOU MUST NOT STUDY OR DRAW.

IT WILL TAKE BUT A GLIMPSE FOR YOU TO SEE THE *INFINITE* POSSIBILITIES...

...OF WHICH YOU ARE ROBBED BY THOSE RULES.

!

PFFF

NGH...

GFF...

SW

RSH

HE CHANGED BACK!

EUINI!

VERY GOOD.

DEMON-STRATION OVER.

RIP

YANK

!!!

IT MEANS NOTHING IF THE SPELL COMES FROM *ME.*

YOU MUST BE THE ONES TO DRAW IF WE ARE TO—

!!

SHWOOP

TUG

10 SN

AP

GRASPING WIND.

SEEMS I'VE FINALLY GOT THE HANG OF IT.

THIS IS THE SEAL HE USED TO CHANGE EUINI BACK!

HURRY! PUT IT BACK ON!

NICE GOING, COCO!

I DON'T CARE *WHAT* YOU WANT ME TO DRAW.

I'M GONNA CHOOSE WHAT THINGS I DRAW FOR *MYSELF.*

AND RIGHT NOW I'M STILL BUSY...

...LEARNING THE *WONDER* AND *TERROR* OF MAGIC!

IS THAT SO?

THEN ALLOW ME TO SHARE MORE OF *BOTH* NEXT TIME WE MEET.

SHW

FOR NOW, IT WOULD SEEM MY TIME IS AT AN END.

OOOM

SHRK

SHRK

SHSHRK

SLICE

NGH!

ALAIRA!

YOU'LL NOT MAKE IT BACK TO THE CHILDREN ANYTIME SOON.

FWICK

I SIMPLY CLOSE A RING WITH ONE INK-DYED CLAW...

THEY'RE HARD TO MAKE OUT AGAINST THE BLACK FABRIC...

...BUT MY CLOAK IS *COVERED* IN ALL MANNER OF SPELLS.

THAT YOU'VE UNCOVERED MY FORM BRINGS YOU NO CLOSER TO VICTORY.

IT BECOMES THE WEAPON OF YOUR DEMISE!!

...AND PRESTO!

BWUF

VOOM

!!!

THESE FLAMES ...

I RECOGNIZE THIS SPELL!

?!

A SHIELD OF FLAME?! YOU HADN'T *TIME* TO COMPOSE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

HMPH. KNOW THAT ALL MANNER OF LIGHT AND HEAT...

...FALL WITHIN THE DOMAIN OF FIRE MAGIC...

OLRUGGIO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

NOW, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BOAST AGAIN ABOUT YOUR ALMIGHTY WEAPON OF *CLOTH?*

...AND THAT EVERY FLAME IS MY SERVANT.

A LITTLE BIRD SAID YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.

RICHEH ...!

SO I WENT AND FOUND SOMEONE WHO *DOES.*

I STILL DON'T HAVE...

...WHAT IT TAKES TO SAVE YOU ON MY OWN.

YOU TAUGHT ME *THAT,* MASTER!

THERE ARE *SOME* ADULTS WHO LISTEN WHEN YOU ASK FOR HELP.

SOME KINDA PROBLEM? I'LL GET THE WATCHFUL EYES RIGHT ON IT.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN AT YOUR ATELIER?

ARE YOU CRYING? WHATEVER'S THE MATTER?

HELLO, THERE...

SO PLEASE, CAN YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN US?

WE PROMISE TO BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAY.

ぎゅっ
// CLENCH

IT WAS A WISE CHOICE, RICHEH.

YOU DID WELL TO COME TO ME FOR HELP.

YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A BIT TOO MUCH FUN, SASARAN.

ONE YOUNG AND ONE INFIRM STILL MAKES FOUR.

?!

I AM OUT-NUMBERED, BUT DEFEAT IS NOT YET—

WE ARE LEAVING.

I KNOW YOU ARE EAGER, BUT LET US WITHDRAW.

BUT IGUIN...!

JOLT

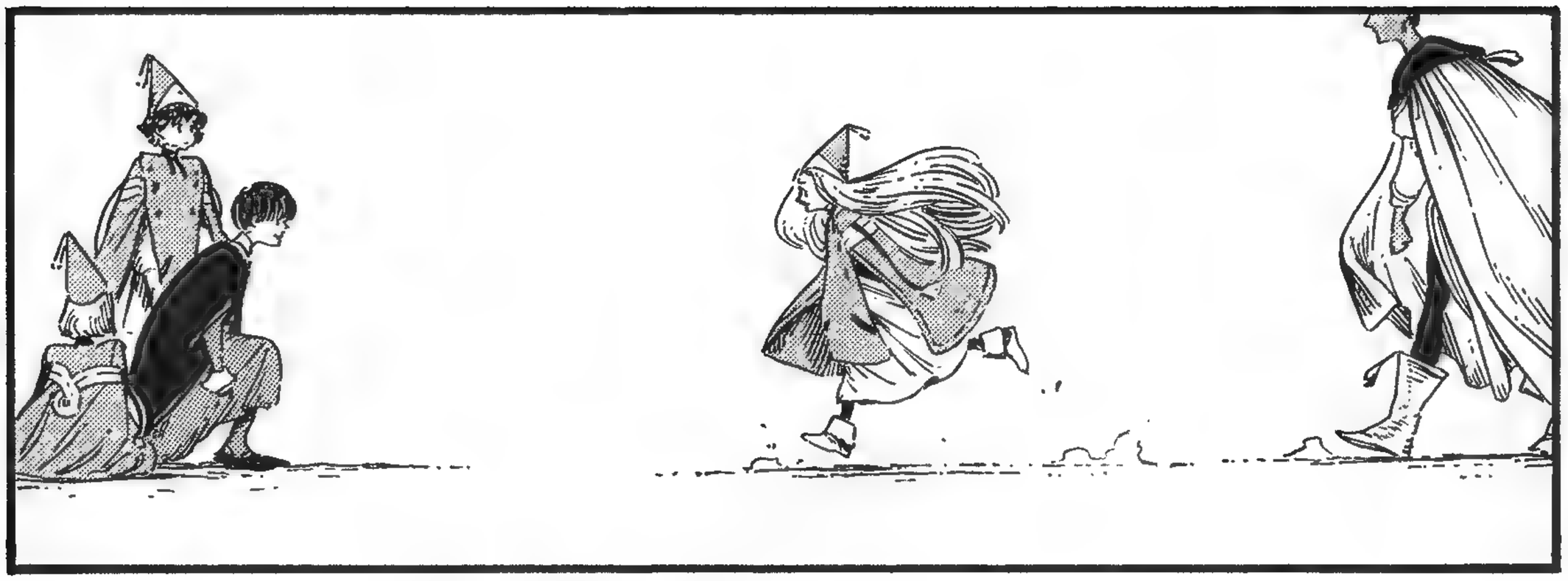
...!

QIFREY!

CALM DOWN AND *THINK!!*

STOP!! DON'T YOU DARE FLEE!!

...
RIGHT.
...
THE CHILDREN.
MY APPREN-TICES.
WHAT REQUIRES YOUR ATTENTION ABOVE ALL ELSE RIGHT NOW?!
NOW COME ON. LET'S HURRY UP AND FIND THEM, *MASTER.*
GOOD.
GLAD YOU FIGURED THAT OUT.



NOD
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
YES, MA'AM.
YOU'RE SAYING...
...ONE BRIMMED CAP TATTOOED YOU...
...AND A DIFFERENT ONE CHANGED YOU BACK?

U-UM...
...ACTUALLY, I'M NOT EXACTLY BACK TO NORMAL.

PROBABLY WANTED TO SHOW YOU KIDS FORBIDDEN MAGIC.
DO THEY THINK A PERSON'S BODY IS A TOY TO SCRAWL UPON?

IT'S A CONTRAPTION THAT CANCELS OUT THE EFFECT OF THE SEAL.

IF I TAKE IT OFF, I TURN BACK INTO A WOLF.

THE FORBIDDEN SPELL IS STILL THERE.

THIS LITTLE MEDALLION ON MY NECK...

A-AM I...

AM I GONNA HAVE MY MEMORIES ERASED?

...I HIGHLY DOUBT THE KNIGHTS WILL LISTEN.

MAYBE IF WE TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED, THEY'LL UNDERSTAND!

IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR THE ONE WHO GOT HURT TO BE BLAMED FOR IT!

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! EUINI'S THE *VICTIM* HERE!

N-NO! THEY WOULDN'T ...!

AS SOON AS THEY DISCOVER THE SEAL ON HIS NECK...

...THEY'LL DECIDE HE'S IN VIOLATION AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

AGOTT'S RIGHT. THEY PROBABLY *WOULD.*

BUT... WAIT...

...
TROUBLESOME APPRENTICE IN VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLES.

...FOR A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING...

I DON'T THINK HE'D HAVE ANY USE...

I-I DON'T THINK MASTER KUKROW...

...WOULD ACCEPT ME LIKE THIS, ANYWAY.

I...I'D EVEN BEGUN TO THINK I MIGHT MAKE A GOOD WITCH...IN MY OWN WAY.

IT'S FUNNY. JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS MAKING PROGRESS...

CLENCH

トン.
PAT

IT'S RIGHT THERE INSIDE YOU.

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD WITCH, EUINI.

YOU FIND ANSWERS AND OVERCOME PROBLEMS. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP OTHERS.

YOU IDENTIFY YOUR WEAKNESSES AND COVER FOR THEM WITH YOUR STRENGTHS.

TH-THANK YOU, MASTER ALAIRA...!

IT'S FAR TOO SOON TO TALK LIKE YOUR FUTURE'S BEEN SEALED OFF.

I WON'T LET ANYONE ERASE YOUR MIND.

!

...WOULD SERVE TO HIS BENEFIT?

RICHEH, PERHAPS YOUR NEWEST SPELL...

WELL, NOW.

I DECIDED TO TRY MAKING ANOTHER WAY IN, TO SEE IF I COULD GET TO MASTER OLRUGGIO FOR HELP.

THERE ARE TWO EXITS. ONE LEADS TO THE ATELIER, AND THE OTHER TO CEYAM WOODS.

THE SECRET ROOM INSIDE MY VASE IS SOMETHING I GOT FROM RILI A LONG TIME AGO.

SO I TRIED DOING IT LIKE THE RAINCLEAVER.

LITTLE SEALS...

...BUT *LOTS* OF THEM, ALL STRUNG TOGETHER...

DRAWING A LARGE SEAL CLEANLY ENOUGH FOR A PERSON TO PASS THROUGH REQUIRES CAREFUL, SEASONED TECHNIQUE.

WINDOW-WAYS ARE A REAL CHALLENGE TO MAKE.

...SO THAT THEY HAVE ALMOST AS MUCH POWER AS ONE BIG SPELL.

...!

...MASTER TAUGHT ME THAT, TOO.

...PLUS THE SIGN OF WINDOWS FROM EUINI'S QUIRE...

...AND THE SIGIL OF DOORWAYS LEFT TO ME BY RILI.

THE LITTLE SEALS I'M GOOD AT DRAWING...

...CONNECTED IN THE WAY MASTER QIFREY SHOWED US...

WHIRL

EUINI.

IT'S A SPELL I COULDN'T HAVE MADE ON MY OWN, BUT WHICH COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT ME.

USE IT TO ESCAPE TO SAFETY.

THIS SPELL IS FOR YOU.

HUH?

YOU MUSTN'T RETURN TO THE GREAT HALL BEFORE THEN.

UNTIL WE FIND A WAY TO REMOVE THE SEAL, YOU'LL HAVE TO HIDE.

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO TOUGH IT OUT FOR A WHILE.

CLASP

YOU WERE UNDER MY CARE, AND I FAILED TO PROTECT YOU. I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.

WILL I EVER GO BACK TO BEING A WITCH?

IT MIGHT BE STUCK ON ME FOREVER.

...DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL FIND A WAY?

FIDGET

FIDGET

B-BUT...

FIDGET

Hah hah hah!

C'MON! BUCK UP! I'LL BE WITH YOU!

AN' I'LL TEACH YA ALL ABOUT MAGIC, TO BOOT!

WHAP

WHAP

FROM NOW ON, I'M GONNA KEEP YOU SAFE.

THAT'S A PROMISE.

THANK YOU...

...MASTER ALAIRA!

...!

ホーク
ZRSH

スー
SL

IDE
IL

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE EXCUSES.

TURNING WEAKNESSES INTO STRENGTHS IS WHAT YOU DO BEST.

HEH HEH

I-I JUST FIGURE I'LL BE HARDER TO FIND LIKE THIS.

AND I CAN RUN FASTER, TOO.

WHIIINE

SCRATCH カミ

カミ SCRATCH

WHIIINE

WHIIINE

あ FLUSTER あ
あ あ あ
あ あ
FLUSTER FLUSTER

YOUR SCALES. THEY KINDA HURT.

OH! SORRY!

OW!

ヒ!! PRICK

WAIT RIGHT THERE!

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

WHEN SCALE-WOLVES RUN...

...TO KNOCK AWAY THEIR STIFF PLAITSCALE FUR...

...THEY DO IT FOR A REASON.

IS THIS BETTER? AM I SOFT NOW?

YEAH.

F-FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I WISHED TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE.

NOW I JUST WANT TO BE ME AGAIN.

I PROMISE I'LL BE BACK. AS MY *REAL* SELF.

WAIT FOR ME.

OF COURSE.

I'LL BE WAITING.

...LET'S SHOW EACH OTHER THE MAGIC WE'VE LEARNED!

AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES...

THEY'RE REALLY GONE.

NO.

I WANNA GET HOME SO I CAN STUDY.

UH... ALL RIGHT, THEN.

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE ANOTHER MOMENT?

TIME TO GO HOME.

C'MON, MASTER.

TWIRL

TMP TMP TMP

I GOTTA FIND MORE WAYS TO BE *ME*...

...SO I CAN GROW INTO A BETTER WITCH.

FINALLY, YOU'VE EMERGED.

SO I CAME TO INVESTIGATE. I CAN SEE I WAS RIGHT TO DO SO.

THE PROCTOR FAILED TO RETURN AFTER THE SCHEDULED CONCLUSION.

TMP

ONE OF THE KNIGHTS MORA-LIS?!

HUH? THE GREAT HALL...?

I WOULD ASK...

...THAT YOU PLEASE ACCOMPANY ME TO THE HALL.

I'LL NEED A FULL REPORT OF WHAT OCCURRED HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO THE CENTER OF ALL WITCH SOCIETY?!

THE HATS OF WITCH HAT

A WITCH'S CALLING CARD IS THE POINTED CAP DONNED UPON THE HEAD. APPRENTICES ARE TYPICALLY EXPECTED TO WEAR THE CAP OF THE ATELIER TO WHICH THEY BELONG, BUT WITH GRADUATION COMES THE RIGHT TO DESIGN AND DON A HAT OF ONE'S OWN. BELOW IS A SELECTION OF THE MANY HATS THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE STORY THUS FAR.

COCO'S HAT

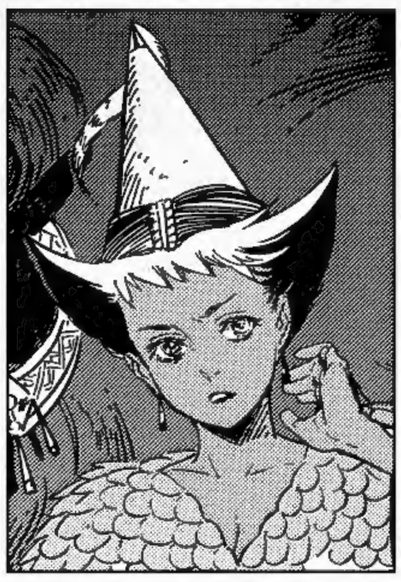
FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 2

STYLE WORN BY APPRENTICES OF QIFREY'S ATELIER. AGOTT, TETIA, AND RICHEH'S CAPS ARE ALL OF THE SAME DESIGN. THE WHITE FABRIC AT THE FRONT IS AFFIXED WITH A SMALL GOLDEN RIVET, AND A TASSEL EXTENDS FROM THE POINT.

QIFREY'S HAT

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 1

USES THE SAME OVERALL DESIGN AS HIS APPRENTICES' CAPS, WITH THE NOTABLE DIFFERENCES OF THE FABRIC COLOR USED FOR THE HAT'S BODY AND, IN PLACE OF THE TASSEL, A LONG RIBBON ATTACHED TO THE POINT.



ALAIRA'S HAT

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 3

THE POINT IS ADORNED WITH A DECORATIVE FEATHER. THE LENGTH OF CLOTH LOOSELY WRAPPED ABOUT THE BASE IS REMINISCENT OF A TURBAN AND IS AFFIXED AT THE FRONT BY WAY OF A GOLDEN ORNAMENT.

NOLNOA'S HAT

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 5

CONSTRUCTED OF A RELATIVELY FLEXIBLE MATERIAL, LEAVING IT PRONE TO SLIGHT FLOPPING WHEN LEFT TO STAND ON ITS OWN. THE LOWER PORTION OF CLOTH IS ATTACHED BY WAY OF STRING TIED TO A METAL RING AT THE FRONT.

OLRUGGIO'S HAT

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 10

A BODY OF BLACK CLOTH ADORNED WITH PATTERNS IN GOLD THREAD EMBROIDERY. THE TASSEL AT THE POINT IS THE SAME AS THAT OF COCO'S CAP: MANY YEARS AGO, HIS ORIGINAL ORNAMENT WAS EXCHANGED WITH QIFREY'S.

THE ORDER'S HATS

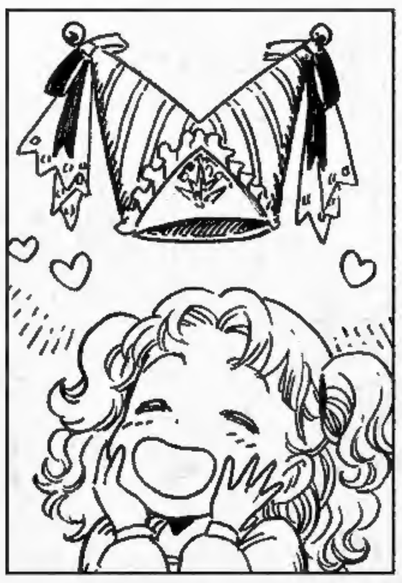
FIRST APPEAR IN CHAPTER 11

THE CAPS OF THE KNIGHTS MORALIS FEATURE CRIMSON CLOTH, WITH A METAL PLATE AT THE FRONT AND DECORATIVE WINGS AT THE SIDES. THE DESIGN IS EVOCATIVE OF THE SINSINGER, A BIRD OF LEGEND SAID TO APPEAR IN WRONGDOER'S DREAMS.

KUKROW'S HAT

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 19

THE DESIGN ALSO WORN BY EUINI. A GREEN BODY, DECORATED AT THE FRONT WITH BLACK CLOTH AND A PATTERN IN GOLD THREAD. AT THE POINT IS A METAL RING OF DESIGN SIMILAR TO A DOOR KNOCKER.



BONUS TRIVIA

TETIA'S HAT

FIRST APPEARS IN CHAPTER 14

THE CAP TETIA DREAMS OF MAKING WHEN SHE STRIKES OUT ON HER OWN. IT EXEMPLIFIES HER CONVICTION THAT EVERY SPELL BRINGS HAPPINESS FOR TWO: ONE PERSON THANKING, AND THE OTHER BEING THANKED.

FOLLOW THE STORY TO NEW, UNFATHOMABLE DEPTHS IN THE GREAT HALL, HOME TO ALL MANNER OF WITCHES MOST PECULIAR.

DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LONG SPIRAL STAIRCASE, THERE UPON THE BASE OF THE DEEP SEA, WHAT LIES IN WAIT?

VOLUME 6: SCHEDULED FOR SALE IN SUMMER 2020!!

Witch Hat Atelier 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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